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The Bear Hotel



How Cowbridge family's TLC coaxed a Vale icon into the 21st century.
(See pages 18-19)

'CHILDREN ARE AT RISK FROM PEOPLE LIGHTING UP' - HEALTH WARNING

SMOKING BAN IN BARRY PARK

A PARK in Barry will be 'smoke-free' from September, as part of a six-month pilot scheme.

If successful, it could lead to a full ban on smoking in parks throughout the Vale.

Iolo Park, just off Treharne Road, has been selected for the pilot. Last September, it was

re-opened, following a £204,000 refurbishment which included a multi-purpose play area.

Now, it will be the scene of a ground-breaking scheme, which could see an end locally to people lighting up in public play areas.

Phil Beaman, the operational manager, parks and grounds maintenance division, confirmed that the Vale Council had

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

been working with health professionals to get the scheme up and running by the autumn.

"I have been in discussion with colleagues of the Cardiff and Vale Public Health Team, regarding a joint initiative for a six-month smoke-free pilot scheme at Iolo Park.

"Health promotion practitioners have contacted three local primary schools to design a poster and the closing date for the competition was July 20.

"Funding for signage has been secured and the pilot is due to be launched this September."

Mr Beaman added: "As the pilot has not yet started, I am unable to

comment at the moment on the introduction of an official policy for the Vale."

Although the Vale Council won't commit itself on the possibility of a complete ban on smoking in playgrounds, if the pilot leads to a healthier, cleaner environment there are likely to be calls for it to be extended.

The pilot will encourage people not to smoke in the park, sparing youngsters second hand smoke and reducing tobacco litter.

ASH Wales (Action on Smoking and Health), a voluntary organisation which campaigns to prevent health problems caused by smoking, discovered through a Freedom of Information request that only two of Wales' 22 local authorities already have official policies prohibiting smoking in children's outdoor playgrounds.

The charity launched a national campaign for smoke-free playgrounds in 2010, and says it has developed a toolkit to help local authorities implement playground bans.

ASH Wales' chief executive, Elen de Lacy, said: "All councils in Wales already have the power to ban and enforce a ban on smoking in their playgrounds, and we want to see all councils follow the example of Caerphilly and Powys.

"We know that children are at particular risk from second hand smoke and that they are more likely to start smoking themselves, if they see adults doing it in a family-friendly environment.

"It is vital that we de-normalise smoking, to reduce the rates of young people taking it up - and also reduce their exposure to smoke in areas where they gather."

Oh, how we do like to be beside the seaside (especially when the sun is out!)



Photograph by ANDY WICKS.

ABOVE: Last weekend's sunshine sent people scurrying off to Barry Island beach to finally get some natural vitamin D!

Man 'stable' after collision in Barry

POLICE are investigating a road traffic collision at around 9.40am on Tuesday (July 24) at the Gladstone Road junction with Ty Newydd Road in Barry.

A black Ford Focus was in collision with a pedestrian, who sustained serious injuries as a result.

He was taken to the University Hospital of Wales, where his condition was described as stable.

A police spokeswoman said: "A 23-year-old female was arrested at the scene and enquiries are ongoing."

Anyone who witnessed the collision, or who has any information concerning it, is asked to contact the Roads Policing Unit on 02920 633 438, or 101, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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Will cycleway be yet another white elephant?

IWOULD like to congratulate Mr Mapledoram on his letter regarding the so-called cycleway being built on the outskirts of Buttrills Field, Barry.

I would like to add that as the council is endeavouring to save money, why was the path situated alongside the edge of the field past the cemetery, when the shorter route at the rear of Colcot Road would have cost half the amount of money?

There is already a road out of the field by the Community Centre, which would have again cut the cost.

I certainly did not see any survey being carried out at the time.

As I am disabled, and live near the field, I can assure folk that most of

the people come down the side of Colcot Road, or across the field.

I cannot see the sense in thinking that folk will use a route which will take twice as long to cross the field.

Will this path be another white elephant, like the crossing put in at great expense on Colcot Road?

It is certainly not used by many folk and the young people from the school still cross the road at a point out of the Leisure Centre - which is where the crossing should have been built.

One wonders what kind of regulation the council will put in place to minimise the use of motor cycles?

Did the Director of Visible Services think that 10 days notice was sufficient for a project of this description?

Miriam Griffiths, Barry.

Bird's eye DVD from an Airship!

IF Alex Campbell (The GEM, page 23, last week) wishes to contact me directly, I can send him a DVD I made last year, when I flew in the Goodyear Airship from Cardiff Airport.

We flew over Dyffryn Gardens, Culverhouse Cross, Ely, Fairwater, Canton and Cardiff city centre, returning over

the Bay, Penarth, Sully, Cosmeston Park lakes, Barry and then the BAMC hanger, before landing on the grass adjacent to the flying club.

Flying at only 53mph, the views over the Vale were quite spectacular.

Contact me on either 01446 774502, or: wilcock60@aol.com. Mike Wilcock Cowbridge

Keeping track of the Goodyear Airship

IN the July 12 issue of the Bridgend & Porthcawl GEM there were photos of an airship, with the question: 'Did anyone else notice it flying over Barry?'

Well, on Sunday July 8, I was at the Pencoed community carnival and coming over the trees and going west was the Goodyear Airship.

It was nice to see it again, as the last time I saw it was in Cardiff at football matches in the

Millennium Stadium.

I have a website for readers - www.flickrriver.com.

Tap in 'goodyear march 2011' and click on search; then on the right, click on 'blue airship flight over cardiff 2011 (set)' for 11 photos.

I am a transport enthusiast volunteer and carry out information research on transport.

I am also the eyes and ears of the Transport Network.

Mr JJ Dyer, Pencoed

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'WALK THE WALK, NOT TALK THE TALK'

IT is time to stop speaking words and producing documents - build roads and cars will fill them - build

cyclepaths (with advice from real, cyclists, not highway engineers) and cyclists will get out of their cars and take to the

open path.

The cycle routes between Cardiff and Barry, via Wenvoe, Ely and Dinas Powys) are clear to be seen, and are available for construction.

For a few of the millions spent on committees and reports which go onto shelves, cycle paths could be constructed, to reduce the nose to tail traffic which the latest

Housing developments at White Farm, Port Road and the Waterfront in Barry, are about to exacerbate.

As to the coastal path - this is an absolute joke in this part of Wales.

For many years now, Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth have fought with a reluctant, anti-cycling Vale Council, to get cycle paths built.

When the now powerless Coun Jeff James suggested an expensive, steel, raised route, we advised a low-cost, low-level cycleway/footpath, from Cardiff Bay to Penarth, around Penarth

Head. Millions of pounds of our money was wasted on an impossible, failed scheme.

Members of Barry and Vale FoE and their colleagues, have cycled the Vale and Cardiff for many years and know what is needed and where - we even have the plans and routes drawn up!

After all, we are asked to take more exercise and our schemes would benefit those who wish to walk on well-maintained paths.

Walking, along with cycling, will help to reduce obesity and the pressures on our Health Service.

We hope the new generation of Vale/Cardiff councillors, along with our Government, might finally stop pontificating and start acting.

We await their call, to start a well-funded cycling forum, to build a Sustainable future, Keith Stockdale, Barry and Vale FoE Co-ordinator.

Council outreach is welcomed

THE Vale Council cabinet's pledge to make its decision-making process "more transparent and inclusive" by holding regular meetings outside Barry, where the public can ask questions, is a welcome initiative.

This is precisely the kind of move for which FocusBARRY has been pressing and which helped three independent candidates to become borough councillors at the May 2012 local elections.

Three other issues which have seen U-turns completed recently, are the re-examination of the Local Development Plan, plans for Cemetery Approach to become a community facility, and eight-hour opening restored for Barry Hospital.

Each of these have been central to public campaigns by FocusBARRY.

Let us hope that the Vale cabinet going 'out and about' is not just a box-ticking exercise. If they really mean to be more transparent and

inclusive, then they should extend the policy to the planning process.

When there was a public outcry backing a 11,300-signature petition opposing housing development at Cemetery Approach, a Save Cemetery Approach Action Group spokesman was denied permission to address the planning committee, even though more than 100 concerned local people packed into the committee room.

Now, cabinet members, if you really mean to make a new start by being more open and transparent, why not allow one person to speak for, say two or three minutes, when contentious issues come before the planning committee?

Fourteen other councils in Wales allow this small concession to democracy. Why not the Vale?

Then we'd really know you were serious and not just embarked on a window-dressing expedition.

Derek Hooper, (FocusBARRY supporter)

'Don't write off the elderly'

PLEASE do not condemn us because we are old! I have met elderly people who having reached 80 plus, do not want to be around any more!

It is the luck of the draw as to what age we depart this life.

According to authorities you are old when you start getting the old age pension - mid 60s!

It is appalling that, for whatever reason, there is never enough money to support older people!

There are so many calls on the finances of this country - NHS, police, education, armed forces - each one having

a legitimate claim.

If the voracious greedy institution in Brussels demanded less, this country could probably be able, eventually, to regain a certain balance!

How are we to cope with an outgoing payment of £50 million per day as basic, and added to whatever Brussels squeezes out of Britain on one excuse or another, which we dare not refuse to pay - or be threatened with dire consequences?

Maybe when we reach 80 years old, we should either be turned into dust, or dispatched wholesale into space! Mrs D E Coombes Herridge, Barry.

Shale gas tests: planning disgrace

WELL, well, the planning inspectorate has come up trumps again! It has once again gone against the Vale Council, and the wishes of the people and allowed an appeal for a Bridgend firm, Coastal Oil and Gas, to test for Shale gas in Llandow.

Not only that, but the Inspectorate has decreed that the council must pay the costs of the company. What an outrageous decision, once again, by an unelected quango.

We have a council which has been democratically elected by the people, for the people.

The council, whether rightly or wrongly, denied this company the right to drill. It has gone through an appeal process to the council which was again denied, and then it is allowed to

go through a third appeal to an unelected body - which has over the past few months, steam-rollered planning applications through that the council has rejected.

No compassion has been shown to the people who are against these planning applications.

Why on earth do we have a council with the power to accept or reject planning applications, which can then go to a Planning Inspectorate that has the power to overturn these decisions; its absolutely crazy.

Why doesn't this gas company drill for shale gas on its own doorstep?

This country is slowly becoming a dictatorship, democracy is being thrown through the window.

The Assembly Government must abolish this quango with immediate effect, and let local democracy decide what is right or wrong. D J Radford, Barry.

Let us know your views:

gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL AUGUST 2)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

| DATE | Time AM | Ht M | Time PM | Ht M |
|---------|---------|------|---------|------|
| 26 Thur | | | 12.06 | 8.7 |
| 27 Fri | 00.27 | 8.6 | 13.03 | 8.4 |
| 28 Sat | 01.33 | 8.3 | 14.21 | 8.2 |
| 29 Sun | 02.59 | 8.1 | 15.44 | 8.2 |
| 30 Mon | 04.21 | 8.4 | 17.00 | 8.6 |
| 31 Tues | 05.29 | 8.7 | 17.58 | 9.2 |
| 01 Wed | 06.26 | 9.3 | 18.51 | 9.7 |
| 02 Thur | 07.11 | 9.8 | 19.36 | 10.0 |

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Vale Council's £82 million to revamp housing stock

THE Vale Council will be spending almost £20 million per year, over the next four years, on bringing council housing up to standard

by PHILIP IRWIN

Gibbonsdown) will be Ian Williams Ltd.

• Barry Area 2 (the rest of Barry) is the responsibility of Apollo Property Services Ltd.

• Finally, work in Penarth and Dinas Powys will be done by SMK Building & Maintenance Ltd.

The Vale Council is embarking on "one of its most ambitious refurbishment projects", aiming to bring all council homes in the Vale up to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) to comply with Welsh Government requirements.

Kitchens, bathrooms, rewiring, heating systems, windows, doors and roofs will be renewed over a four-and-a-half year period, starting on September 3.

Four external contractors have been appointed to work in partnership with the council, and these include:

• Covering the western Vale and rural areas will be Lovell Partnerships Ltd.

• Working on Barry Area 1 (Dyfan and

commencement of this programme.

"We have appointed experienced contractors to deliver this programme and I am confident that tenants will be pleased with the work that is carried out.

"Not only will all council properties be upgraded, but there will be wider benefits delivered by increasing local jobs and apprenticeships in the area, and spending the local pound within the Vale.

"This is good news for the local economy."

He continued: "The council is mindful that there will be disruption to tenants during these works.

"However, tenant liaison officers have been appointed for each contract area and their role is to look after the welfare of tenants and their families during the works."

He added that all contractors will be monitored on a continual basis and their performance reported to the council, and to a tenants' quality and design forum.

The total cost of the programme is in the region of £82 million over the contract period.

Coun Neil Moore, the Leader of the council, said: "Council tenants have been waiting for a number of years for the

LAST year's Mayor of Barry, Coun Bronwen Brooks, has held a cheque presentation in the Mayor's Parlour for her nominated charities during her term office, ValePlus and the John Rowley Trust.

Retiring Mayor hands over cheques to her charities



'THANK YOU FOR BACKING BEACH FRIENDS' PETITION'

MAY we, through the pages of The GEM, thank all the Barry residents who signed the Friends of Barry Beaches' petition, calling on the Vale Council to urgently cancel plans to install parking pay and display, meters along the Cold Knap Terrace.

We strongly believe that this beach should remain free for residents and visitors alike.

This petition was presented to the Vale of Glamorgan Mayor at the last meeting of the full council.

I am happy to report that the new Labour-led coalition will be cancelling all plans to introduce pay and display meters at the Knap Terrace, Llantwit Major beach and Penarth Cliff Top car parks.

The next beach clean will be held at the Knap beach this Sunday, July 29, meeting at 3pm adjacent to the public toilets.

All bags, gloves and litter pickers will be provided, but please remember to wear sturdy shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather.

Coun Rob Curtis, (Co-ordinator of Friends of Barry Beaches).

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PENARTH FESTIVAL BRINGS OUT COWBOYS (AND COWGIRLS!) AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS

Contact him on 07855 374478

PENARTH Festival took place recently, and as Andy Wicks' photographs show, there was plenty of fun to be had, with lots of exciting things to do and see – and, thankfully, the weather held off as well, to make it a great day out!



Artwork aims to brighten up Barry town centre walls



Natalia, Isabel, Louis and Joshua enjoy the artwork with artist Tom Pearman and Iain Bazzard from Vibe Experience.

AN art installation made with contributions from local children and youth groups has been unveiled on the wall of Home Bargains this week, celebrating the iconic heritage of Barry.

Based upon scenes of Barry and influenced by

cinematic techniques, the artwork was officially mounted along the wall of the store on Thompson Street earlier this week.

The public art was created by Tom Pearman, an artist who worked with children from Gladstone and Holton primary schools to come up with the designs.

Tom hosted a workshop with the pupils, where they explored model-making, photography and some exciting cinematic special effects.

Embracing Barry's heritage as a vibrant town and a destination for seaside holidays and day trips, Tom and the pupils took inspiration from historic postcards of Barry.

Vibe Experience, a multimedia and creative voluntary youth organisation, also supported the art installation. It carried out a number of workshops with young people from the Castleland area.

Iain Bazzard, Vibe Experience co-ordinator, said: "It was fantastic to see the young people develop and grow in confidence and skill – they really gave it their all towards completing the project. The artwork is a testament to the young people's hard work and dedication, and it is a real achievement for the local community."

Robert Howard, store manager at Home Bargains, Barry, said: "We're thrilled to play host to the artwork, which has really brightened up the area. It is a fantastic celebration of our history and has already generated a lot of interest with shoppers and passers-by."

The public art installation forms part of the Thompson Street regeneration scheme.

Emma Hancock, the council landscape architect, said: "Public art has historically had a low profile in Barry town centre. However, in recent years a collection of public art has developed with the unveiling of artworks which form part of the fabric of the town centre, and provide traces of cultural history."

"This latest project has been an exciting collaboration between artist, local schools and residents, social enterprise, the local authority and the private sector, Home Bargains, whom we wish to thank for their support."

RNLI coffee

A COFFEE morning in aid of the RNLI will be held at Penarth Yacht Club from 10.30am to noon on Wednesday, August 1. Tickets (£2) can be bought in advance, or paid for

at the door, and include tea, coffee and Welsh cakes.

There will be a raffle, souvenir stall and delicious cakes and savouries for sale. Everyone is welcome.

Barrivale bridge club RESULTS

RECENT results from the Barrivale Bridge Club were as follows:

July 3: first – Mark Roderick and Mike Close, 67.19 per cent; joint second – Ann and Sean Macdougall, and Mick Green and Noelle Bond, 57.81 per cent. Ann and Sean won on handicap.

July 10: first – Mark Roderick and Mike Close, 67.19 per cent;

second – Graham Jones and Irene Thomas, 63.54 per cent; third – Ken Hannah and Denis Mottram, 56.25 per cent. Graham and Irene won on handicap.

New members are welcome. If you would like to join, telephone 01446 733425, or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Mike Bond

SISTERS DO IT FOR MARIE CURIE – WITH A TEA PARTY

SISTERS Lynne Gwatkin and Kim Sellick held a Marie Curie Blooming Great Tea Party in Barry recently.

The bad weather held off as 50 guests, including family, friends and neighbours, enjoyed tea, coffee (wine) and delicious homemade cakes while raising money for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

Lynne said: "Our mother was diagnosed with lung cancer last March and sadly died in October. During mum's final weeks, she was cared for by the wonderful nurses and doctors at Holme Towers hospice in Penarth."

"The care mum received was outstanding. Kim and I wanted to do something to give something back to say thank you."

"We would like to thank everyone who attended the tea party and for all the wonderful donations of cakes (some were masterpieces, especially the daffodil cup cakes) and money. Thank you also to everyone who donated raffle prizes (which raised over £200)."

"A special thanks to Ioan Wardhough who entertained everyone during the afternoon with his beautiful harp playing. Thanks also to



ABOVE: Debbie Pearce (centre) enjoying the tea with Kim Sellick and Lynne Gwatkin.

Streets Brasserie, Aspirations Florists, The Bridge Cafe and The Velvet Touch Beauty Salon for their generous contributions.

"At the end of the day, the total amount raised was a staggering £700! Fantastic!"

The money will now pay for the overnight nursing care of three cancer patients.

Donations can still be made by forwarding payment to the fundraising team at Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Holme Towers, Penarth, CF64 3YR, or by telephoning 02920 426068.

Independent stands

CHRISTOPHER SHORT, who lives in the Buttrills ward, is standing as an independent for election to Barry Town Council on August 2.

Mr Short, who has been a governor of both secondary and primary schools in Barry, is a former chairman of Friends of the Earth Cymru.

He said: "I place the environment and cleaning up Barry at the top of my agenda."

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Starts Sunday 22 July.

Think you can sing? "Well quite frankly Mam' we don't give a dam" if you can or you can't! It's all about having a go, isn't it? The fun starts at 8pm and if you're the lucky winner, you get your supper paid for compliments of a Carlos Pizza voucher.

SKITTLES... We are also looking for new skittle teams throughout the week. To come & benefit from our newly improved alley with live stream camera coverage, so you don't miss any of the action. Go on be part of the atmosphere.

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Sports day at Rhws Primary



The opening ceremony saw the school's Glee Club performing.

SPORTS Day at Rhws Primary School was of an Olympic size this year, as pupils competed in a range of sporting activities.

The day started with an opening ceremony featuring a

selection of songs from the school's Glee club.

Pupils from reception to year-6 were put into Olympic country teams and gained points for their countries by long jumping, relay and obstacle racing, target throwing and a wide range of other activities.

The session culminated in sprinting races and the points were totalled to find out the winners in each key stage.

China were the winners in Foundation Phase and Australia were victorious in key stage 2.

New date for fun day

MOUNT PLEASANT Baptist Church fun day at Victoria Park, Cadoxton has been re-scheduled for **Saturday, August 11.**

Reverend Ken Iveson explained: "The original fun day was washed out, but nothing to do with baptisms!"

The entertainments and activities will begin at 12 noon and run to 4pm.

● Reverend Iveson is retiring as chaplain to the Royal British Legion, Barry branch after the annual Seafarers' Service on September 29. The service is being held in the Memorial Hall at 11am.

Let Barry Air Cadets give you something to do!

NOT looking forward to the long boring summer holiday? Fancy some flying, sport, adventurous training, shooting? If so, the Air Cadets could be for you.

372 (Barry) Squadron, have vacancies for young men and women between 13 and 18 years old, who want to join an exciting, challenging and fast moving youth organisation.

Air Cadets have the opportunity to fly in the Grob tutor aircraft and Vigilant glider, often taking control under pilot supervision.

Cadets can also try their hand at abseiling, canoeing, acrobatics, hill walking, camping, navigation, shooting and team-building exercises.

The Squadron is also actively involved and successful at all levels of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

The cadets' general fitness, skills and team working are always encouraged to improve through football, rugby, hockey, netball, athletics, archery and swimming.

The highlight of a cadet's year is attendance at a Royal Air Force station for one-two weeks; living and breathing the Royal Air Force at first-hand, as well as the annual trip to the battlefields and memorials of world war one in Belgium and France.

The cadets not only work hard for themselves but also supporting their community; through fundraising and hands-on assistance to many local organisations.

Cadet Jake Patterson said: "Air Cadets is great fun and we get to do loads of exciting activities all the time, most weekends there are cool activities to sign up to."

The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7pm-9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour. Email: 372@aircadets.org, or call 01446 747734 for more information.

CENTRE TURNS INTO CINEMA!



The Barry Drop In Centre was turned in to a cinema for the recent film club event.

FILM matinees were held under the Barry Drop-in Centre's CYPIC (children and young people in the community) project, to promote Castleland Community Film Club. The event was sponsored by Blockbusters in Barry who provided films, popcorn and drinks.

The Gwain room (cafe) and the hallway were transformed into a cinema, complete with entrance foyer.

During the interval free ice creams were handed out to all the children and young people in traditional

cinema style. CYPIC also runs Friday Club every Friday evening (6.30pm-8.30pm) for ages five-11 years (50p entrance).

For Further information, contact Tanya Dee at: Playleader@dicdevelopmenttrust.com, or visit: www.dicdevelopmenttrust.com.

GOOD LUCK TO ANDREW!

ON Friday (July 27) the Olympic Games begin in London – the third time they have been held there after 1908 and 1948.

Wales has 30 members in Team GB at the Games, and one of these is Barry's Andrew Selby, boxing at flyweight (52kg) – AIBA ranked No1 in the world and European gold medallist.

He was trained at Rhooose Boxing Club from the age of eight

until his teens, by Peter Anthony.

Andrew, along with his brother Lee Selby, the current British and Commonwealth champ at Featherweight, are both gifted boxers.

I would like to wish Andrew, on behalf of his friends, family and I'm sure, the people of the

Vale every success in his Olympic campaign.

"He who is not courageous enough to take risks, will accomplish nothing in life" – the words of Muhammad Ali, Olympic gold medallist, Rome 1960.

Craig Smyth Barry

Do they have to be so loud?

ONCE again, I have been woken up, after working a night shift, by scrap metal merchants shouting through a loudspeaker.

Now I know they are handy, and help to keep the place tidy, but do they need to be blasting a loud-speaker at 9am? Is it even legal?

Joe Butler, Rhooose.

Noisy wake-up call

IS anyone else getting annoyed by scrap merchants coming round every second day with their loudspeaker?

It's bad enough during the week, but is 9.30am on a Sunday morning REALLY necessary?

Alex Campbell, Barry.

AUTHOR'S BAY TALE

AT the July meeting of Cadoxton WI, members were entertained by author David Alexander, who gave a very interesting account of his book about Jackson's Bay.

He read one story from the book, which contained excitement, despair and then fulfillment – what more could be asked from an author?

Forthcoming events include a trip to BBC studios, a lunch at Barry Catering College, and trips to the Designer Outlet at Bridgend and Caerphilly Garden Centre.

On August 25, a table top sale will be held at the Victoria Park Community Centre. All tables will cost £10.

The next meeting is on September 17 which will be the 21st anniversary of the branch. It is hoped that some of the inaugural members will attend.

The evening will be a harvest festival; tickets cost £4.50 and memorabilia from past events will be on show.

Guests and new members welcome. Contact number, 01446 404891.

CW

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY-ELECTION 2nd AUGUST 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the

Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to participate in the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00

Schedule

Column 1

From Wednesday
1st August 2012 to
Friday 3rd August 2012

Column 2

The area to be closed will be the main access from Alexandra Crescent to the Community Centre at grid 310974 168084, and shall close Alexandra Crescent between the footway to the south of the Community Centre between the two sets of give way markings, and the centre island. Diversions shall be via the remaining open section of Alexandra Crescent either side of the closure.

Column 3

From 6.00am on
Wednesday 1st August
2012, until 6.00pm on
Friday 3rd August 2012

Local Signed Diversions shall be in place

Dated this 26th July 2012

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps Wenvoe CF5 6AA



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'Our small community inspires us' Local sisters in monsoon Moonride for the CF Trust

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

AN intrepid pair of Vale sisters battled monsoon-like conditions when they took part in a night-time cycle race in the south-east of England, to raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Lucy Thomas and Ginnie Bateman left Alexandra Palace in London late on the evening of June 29, heading for the race course in Brighton.

Lucy, whose 18 -

month-old daughter Nancy has cystic fibrosis, told THE GEM: "The long distance charity bike ride is called the Moonride and the route is 100km.

"As the name suggests, it was cycled at night, and we set off at 11.30pm from central London.

"It was something we had never tried before - cycling through packed London streets and through the night in torrential rain with 20mph headwinds.

"We went up some incredible climbs and equally terrifying descents, all in the pitch dark with only our bike lights for comfort!

"Despite only starting the training for the event six weeks before, we managed to complete it in a respectable 5 hours and 40 minutes.

"We were 260th out of the 750 people that took part."

Lucy and Ginnie, of Llantwit Major, had put in some vital pre-race training with a demanding taskmaster!

"We were helped by very hard 'spin-classes' at Studio 9 in Bridgend with our punishing instructor, Rhianon Owens, so a big thanks to her for getting us

ready for the race."

"We were helped by very hard 'spin-classes' at Studio 9 in Bridgend with our punishing instructor, Rhianon Owens, so a big thanks to her for getting us



Lucy and Ginnie on the Moonride.

'bike fit', after being off a bike for nearly 10 years!

"My husband Lyn and daughter Nancy drove down to Brighton to meet us on the Saturday and bring our exhausted bodies back home.

"I'd like to thank my neighbour, Brian, for writing out a step-by-step guide to help us get across London with our bikes from Paddington Station to Alexandra Palace."

Lucy, Lyn, their family and friends, have arranged and taken part in numerous events to raise the profile of the CF Trust.

BUCKET COLLECTION
The latest fundraiser

involving the Thomas family and their friends took place at Cardiff Airport.

Lucy explained: "The airport kindly allowed us to do bucket collections on Saturday mornings. Together with donations from friends and family we have raised more than £1,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust."

"Our small community continues to inspire and support us in our endeavours and we are really humbled by them, and would like to thank them all again from the bottom of our hearts. Nancy is very lucky to grow up surrounded by all these loving people."

Lucy is keen to do the ride again next year and if others would like to take part they can contact her and Lyn at nowmrstomas@btinternet.com.

To find out more about the CF Trust's fundraising, please call 0300 373 1100 or email: events@cftrust.org.uk. For more information on the charity, please go to www.cftrust.org.uk/

THE SOROPTIMISTS VISIT WESTMINSTER



Barry & District Soroptimists with Vale MP Alun Cairns outside the Houses of Parliament.

VALE MP Alun Cairns recently welcomed members of the Barry & District Soroptimists, who were keen to visit the historic Palace of Westminster and find out about the role of an MP.

Mr Cairns heard how the group, which was chartered in 1968, takes

an active part in international as well as local community activities across the Vale.

Local projects supported include Llamau in Barry, the Breast Care Unit at Llandough Hospital, ValePlus, the Marie Curie hospice in Penarth.

He said: "I was delighted to be able to welcome members to Westminster and to recount snippets of his-

tory and facts to such an interested and knowledgeable group."

Barry & District Soroptimists president Judy James added: "We are very grateful for the invitation to visit the Houses of Parliament

and for the warm welcome we received. It is such an impressive place, and our visit was very informative as well as exciting."

Visit: www.sigbi.org/barry-and-district.

Treats in store

FRIENDS and Neighbours were invited to visit Waitrose in Barry, when despite the weather, over 25 attended and were given an informative talk followed by 'high tea'.

They are looking forward to their summer outing to Symonds Yat an August and trips to Barry Memorial Hall to see Bill 'Guys and Dolls,' and Fame.

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Egg Fried Rice, Sweet & Sour Chicken Balls (5), Beef in Black Bean Sauce
Meal for Two £14.00
Mini Spring Rolls (4), Sweet & Sour Pork, Beef with Mushroom, Yung Chow Fried Rice, Prawn Crackers
Meal for Three £23.00
Barbecued Spare Ribs, Sweet & Sour Chicken Cantonese Style, Beef in Oyster Sauce, Sea-Spice Pork, Yung Chow Fried Rice, Prawn Crackers.
Meal for Four £35.50
1/4 Crispy Aromatic Duck, Lamb with Honey and Black Pepper Sauce, Chicken in Szechuan Sauce, Salt & Pepper King Prawns, Shredded Beef in Chilli Sauce, Special Egg Fu Yung, Yung Chow Fried Rice, Prawn Crackers.

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TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME

Why put 20 seats at Cold Knap?

IN answer to W James' letter headed 'Where are the park benches?' - the answer to that question seems to be that they have all been placed around Cold Knap Lake!

There are over 20 seats on one side (the shady side!) of the lake. Who is going to need 20 seats?

Next to the lake, where the swimming pool once was, there is a good expanse of grass

with a couple of paths, perfect for children to play ball or ride bikes, etc - and not one seat for adults!

Nells Point, Barry Island, has a panoramic view over the Bristol Channel, with only one seat facing the sea. I could go on!

Why were all these seats placed on one side of Cold Knap Lake, when there are so many other places where they would be of more benefit? What was the thinking behind it? (Name and address supplied)

FAMILY FUN DAYS

RSPB Cymru are holding three family fun days at Porthkerry Park, Barry today (July 26), July 31, and August 8, from 10am-4pm, offering face painting, badge making, dragonfly making and wildlife watching. Events weather dependent; details on 029 20353000.

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Vale Show honours Colwinston man's lifetime achievement

RIGHT: Chairman of the society, Robert Llewellyn, presents the award to Richard Gibb at Pancross Farm.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society took the opportunity to present a lifetime achievement award to Richard Gibb of Colwinston, during a farm walk to Pancross Farm, Llancarfan, organised by BOCM Pauls.



Richard started working in the Vale in 1979, advising farmers on arable crop production and grassland manage-

ment for livestock production.

Chairman of the society, Robert Llewellyn, said: "I was delighted to present this award to Richard Gibb; he is an extremely popular member of the Vale agricultural community."

Richard has worked in research and has even managed a large dairy herd in north Somerset. For the last 20 years, he has worked for BOCM Pauls, advising livestock producers on their animal feed requirements in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Dairy producer Edward Thomas said: "Richard is extremely knowledgeable and has helped us with the arable, grassland and formulating rations for the dairy herd and young stock."

Many farmers throughout the Vale are delighted that Richard Gibb has received this annual award.

The Vale Show takes place on Wednesday, August 22, at Fommon Castle Park. There are still a few trade stand places available and exhibitors can find schedules for all the classes on line. Entries for horses and livestock close on July 28.

(For further information please telephone 01446 710099 or look at the website www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk.)

The Vale of Glamorgan Show has so much going on throughout the day it really is a 'great day out for all the family'.

NG

THE OLD HALL GARDENS DISPLAY RUSSIAN DANCE



ABOVE: One of the displays of classical Russian Dance at Old Hall Gardens.

Barrians saddened by cinema demolition



LEFT: The demolition of the old Theatre Royal building continues apace in Barry.

Picture by
**PHILIP
DAWSON**

GEM readers were saddened to see the Theatre Royal being demolished in Barry last week.

For many Barrians, the Theatre Royal provided hours of pleasure and entertainment over more than a century.

Later this year, construction will start on a new Extra Care facility for the elderly.

Local photographer Philip Dawson captured the image of the demolition late last week, as the rubble started piling up.

COWBRIDGE Old Hall Gardens were the setting for the Moya Vahey School of Russian Classical Dance annual garden party on a rare day of July sunshine.

The party showcased many talented young dancers from across the Vale of Glamorgan, in a varied programme that included national, ballet and character dances.

Squash and cakes were served and spectators donated generously, raising £394.54 for Marie Curie (through Richard Parks' 737 Challenge).

It was a successful, entertaining and enjoyable afternoon. **RLJ**

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Contact Sian Cornwell-Shaw,
Estates Section,
The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic
Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU
Tel: 01446 709756/01446 709335

E-Mail: scornwell-shaw@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



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Local pupils out to help 'change the world' via TV



LEFT: Ceri Elspeth Lewis, Luis Miles Evans, Rachel Lewis, and Lestyn Wyn Lewis.

A once-in-a-lifetime adventure awaits a pupil from Ysgol Bro Morgannwg, as he travels to the other side of the world to volunteer in a foreign country – for a brand new S4C series.

Luis Miles Evans (17), from Rhose, will fly to Uganda in August with three other youngsters, to be filmed for the second series of Newid Byd (Change the World).

The year-12 pupil at the Vale's Welsh medium secondary school in Barry, Luis is studying chemistry, physics, mathematics and graphics at A-level.

He enjoys all kinds of sports, but it is in the water that he's most comfortable, as he swims and surfs. Luis has represented Wales in swimming competitions on a number of occasions. In his spare time, he is a lifeguard on Barry Island beach and at Cardiff International Pool.

"I'm thrilled to have been chosen for Newid Byd because the purpose of the trip is to help the local people who live in less-developed areas," said Luis.

"I don't know that much about Uganda, so I'm sure this trip will be an eye-opener for me of the poverty and quality of life that is evident there.

"This experience could change the way that I look at people and perhaps change the way I respond to similar

situations."

Over the past few months, production company Telescop have undertaken an intensive programme to determine the four finalists.

"The four candidates were chosen because they are enthusiastic and hard-working young people," Mererid Wigley, series producer, explained.

"I'm confident that they can respond to the challenge that faces them. I also hope their actions inspire more young people to follow in their footsteps and help others in their own communities."

Luis joins Lestyn Wyn Lewis from Llannerch-y-medd, Rachel Lewis from Pontarddulais and Pwllheli's Ceri Elspeth Lewis, on the journey to Uganda next month, where all four will volunteer for three weeks, under the guidance of Arwel Phillips.

Once there, they will assist in a number of important community projects to help improve the way of life for the locals.

From building a goat shed to establishing a library, harvesting coffee and planting trees, the experience will give them a taste of Uganda's culture.

During this unique challenge, all four will work closely with charities including Dolen Pfermio, Size of Wales, Child of Hope, Pont and Wales Fair Trade.

They'll also focus on projects that will help communities in the Mbale region, East Uganda.

Open cabinet commitment is welcomed

I VERY much welcome the statement made by Leader Coun Neil Moore, ('Council will open up cabinet to the public', The GEM, July 19), when he says that cabinet meetings will no longer 'rubber stamp' decisions that have been made in private.

It has taken our municipal leaders a long time to realise that when dealing with

public business and tax payers' money the proper and best decisions are made in the open and when people can speak freely.

The cabinet should also adopt this more open attitude when dealing with contracts, tendering and the disposal of community assets, where delegated powers and the exempt part of the agenda have been over-used.

Dennis Harkus, FocusBARRY supporter

PACT meetings

ST HILARY: coffee and chat, July 26 at The Bush Inn at 11.30am.

SULLY PACT: July 26, The Jubilee Hall at 8pm.

RHOOSE PACT: August 1 at the Celtic Way Community Centre at 7pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT: August 2 at Cogan Leisure Centre at 7pm.

ST ATHAN PACT: August 5 at The Gathering Place, 2pm.

BUTTRILLS PACT: August 6 at the Philip John Community Room, Barry Library at 6.30pm.

DINAS POWYS PACT: August 6 at St Mary's Church Hall, Edith Road at 7pm.

The former head returns to school



Mrs Roberts with Phil Whitcombe, present headteacher at Bryn Hafren.

BRYN HAFREN welcomed back former Headteacher, Mrs Pamela Roberts, for a tour of the school and to meet past colleagues who are still teaching there.

Mrs Roberts was headteacher for almost 20 years, and on her tour of the building was "amazed" at the changes that have taken place at the school in recent years.

Phil Whitcombe, the present headteacher, said he hoped the visit would be the first of many by Mrs Roberts, who spent a happy afternoon reminiscing with her past colleagues.

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Do you have a youth led project idea but need cash to put it into action?

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Closing date 13th August 2012

For more information search Dish Out Dosh on Facebook Or phone the Vale Volunteer Bureau – 01446 421782

You could also visit
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Barry Island WEEKENDERS

FREE Family events every weekend this summer

This weekend!



STREET MUSIC WEEKENDER

Sat 28 & Sun 29 July

Enjoy live music by the seaside!
Saturday - 'All That Jazz' and 'Back to November'
Sunday - 'Samba Galea' and 'Railroad Bill'.
From 12pm both days.



ENTERTAINMENT WEEKENDER

Olympic-themed street entertainment along the promenade including 'Anyone for Tennis', Balloon Modelling and Cuthbert Clott - The Next Olympic Champion. From 12pm both days.



STREET SPORTS WEEKENDER

Join Iain Randall, professional football free-styler, and Matti Hennings, professional BMX ballancer, for street sport performances and workshops. From 11am to 4pm both days.



ZAPCATS WEEKENDER

Fast and furious Zapcat Powerboat action. The adrenalin-pumped racing will take place on both days, promising plenty of speedy excitement. From 11am both days.



STREET ART WEEKENDER

Let loose your artistic flair by drawing on the mini cubes along the promenade or take part in free graffiti art workshops. All ages and abilities welcome. 11am to 4pm both days.

All events will take place along the prom or seafront. Please note that timings may be subject to change at short notice. For further details, please call 01446 704737 / 01446 747171 or go online at www.visitthevale.com

Pond cleaning and poetry at Porthkerry Country Park



The Wildlife Watch group with some of their work at Porthkerry Country Park.

THE Wildlife Watch group enjoyed a day of pond cleaning and exploring, followed by story telling and poetry writing after poet Mike Church joined the youngsters on a recent outing to Porthkerry Country Park.

The activity day was organised by south Wales Valleys literature development officer, Louise Richards. All of the youngsters came away from their day having created their own piece of poetry inspired by their morning at the pond.

Mike Church joined the youngsters during their group meeting to help them translate

their pond experiences into poetry.

Mel Stewart, ranger at Porthkerry, said: "The group produced some wonderful poems, which are on display in our new Forest Lodge."

The Wildlife Watch group is made up of children from throughout the Vale, aged between eight-14 years old, all brought together through their shared interest in nature.

The group meets once a month and carries out a range of environmental activities, such as planting trees, building bird boxes and willow domes, and even creating bug mansions.

Can you give bouncy young Sandy a home?

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

SANDY is a three-year-old cross-breed. She is an energetic, bright young dog who will do anything for a treat!

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She is great fun to be around, and after a good play session with her carers, she loves nothing more than a good cuddle - and gives plenty of licks.

She is looking for a home with someone who will enjoy keeping her busy, and give her all the cuddles she wants.

She is a bouncy dog so can live with children of 11 years and up.

There is a video of Sandy with her carer at: www.dogstrust.org.uk, just go to the Bridgend homepage.

If you would like to offer Sandy a home, call



SANDY.

01656 725219, or pop in to visit us at Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG.

We are open from 12 noon-4pm every day except Monday, and will be opening late until 8pm on Wednesday throughout the summer months.

LINDA FEAGAN

'Zero tolerance' on dog fouling

IRRESPONSIBLE dog owners will face heavy fines when zero tolerance patrols begin in the Vale next week.

Private local authority support company XFOR has been enlisted by the Vale Council, to tackle dog fouling and littering, following increasing complaints by residents.

Offenders will be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £75 without warning - as the council takes a tougher stance on the problem.

"It is hoped the one-year pilot scheme will significantly improve the cleanliness of streets, parks and beaches throughout the Vale," a spokeswoman said.

Cabinet member for the environment and visible services Coun Rob Curtis commented: "Keeping our streets clear of dog excrement and litter was a key manifesto pledge of the local Labour Party which we are determined to deliver for the residents of the Vale of Glamorgan."

"Councils spend over £885 million a year on street cleansing. This money could be better spent repairing our roads, repairing our schools, or even refurbishing public toilets."

"Dog fouling is not only unpleasant, it is also dangerous. The biggest threat to public

health from dog excrement is a horrible infection of the toxocarasis roundworm. Be warned that from July 30, we will be introducing a policy of zero tolerance towards littering and dog fouling."

"Only offenders who do not pick up after their dog fowls, those who drop litter and toss cigarette ends to one side may fear. Residents and visitors who do so are breaking the law, and do this at their peril".

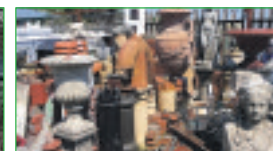
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Out and About with The GEM

TY HAFAN WINNERS

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D732.

● £2,000: 516290.
● The rollover, which now stands at £3,500, was not won this week.
● £10: 169131, 623968, 196462, 281402, 653471, 420070, 490240, 912634, 206866, 413650, 723595, 680345, 198580, 751161, 376114, 650229, 252784, 107659, 559254, 182954.

● £5: 139351, 674277, 887913, 307354, 152130, 239105, 886144, 833827, 824499, 216505, 283401, 740410, 726708, 355746, 129081,

862276, 987356, 545046, 413013, 299430, 942384, 325128, 265269, 633586, 169196, 113004, 999057, 130209, 954029, 173149, 305914, 704945, 630307, 324799, 427837, 328808, 694974, 233708, 574420, 811904, 761750, 479206, 240420, 252839, 444865, 919028, 359727, 337854, 305934, 418045, 669198, 597464, 896278, 894081, 431646, 750162, 704748, 876762, 165136, 851978, 681919.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

What's on and where

Open garden

THE garden at 68 Redlands Road, Penarth will be open to the public on Sunday next at 2pm-5pm, NOT from 11am-5pm, as previously stated.

Free summer school

A FREE, two day summer school for years 8-9 pupils interested in science and technology, is being held next week.

Co-ordinated by Careers Wales EBP (Education Business Partnership), this year's TechnoClub takes place between 9.30am and 3.30pm on July 25-26 at the Llandaff campus of Cardiff Metropolitan University.

For more details, contact Sue Gooding or Linda Canning at Careers Wales on 02920 203700.

History speaker

RHOOSE and District History Society are hosting a talk by Alan Underhill about 'Notable Welsh' on Friday, July 27 at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhose Community Centre, Stewart Road. Tickets (available at door) are £1 adults, 50p children under 16.

Bingo

THE management

committee of Rhose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhose is holding another fundraising bingo afternoon at the hall on Saturday (July 28) at 2.30pm.

Beach clean

FRIENDS of Barry Beaches will hold their next monthly litter pick at the Knap beach on Sunday, July 29, meeting on Knap Terrace car park at 3pm.

Concert

BRIDGEND Male Voice Choir, who were National Eisteddfod winners in 2004 and 2006, are performing in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major next week.

The concert takes place on Friday, August 3 at 7.30pm.

Tickets: £5 adult, £3 students, from Graham Morgan at the Old White Hart, Llantwit Major. Call 01446 790132, or 07948 485325 for details.

Reunion

A REUNION has been organised for the staff of the former Western Welsh/Nation Welsh bus depot in Barry to mark the 20th anniversary of its closure.

It will take place at 7pm on August 8 at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road in Barry.

Why the Smith family are stepping out to walk for Marie Curie

IN the final countdown to the Marie Curie Cancer Care Walk Ten event at Margam Park on Saturday, August 4 – the charity is still urging people to sign up.

The event, now in its second year, has a new route, and entertainment from Bryncoch Male Voice Choir, whose chairman, Colin Williams, said: "We are fully aware of the role played by local Marie Curie nurses in their care of terminally ill patients, and we are only too happy to sign up to such events."

There will also be songs from the Great American Songbook, sung by Dan and Laura Curtis.

Both acts are giving up their time completely free of charge and the charity is grateful for their support, which will help more care being provided for patients in their own homes or in the Penarth hospice.

An entire family is among those signed up for the walk. Mair Smith's brother, unfortunately, was diagnosed with a brain tumour and needed around the clock care.

Mair and her family decided that they would provide this care for him, as they wanted to make sure he could stay at home where he was happiest.

Mair said: "We were told about the Marie Curie Cancer Care nurses by our district nurse, because we'd never really understood what work they did in the



ABOVE: David Smith and Sharon Sweeney, who are taking part this year alongside the Bryncoch Male Voice Choir.

area. I have to say it was a God-send, as we had them in the daytime, which was invaluable to us as a family, especially when my brother needed to be bathed.

"The nurses treated him with such care and like a human being."

"I can't thank them enough for all the kind work that they did before he passed away."

Mair's daughter Sharon decided to sign up the entire family to take part in Walk Ten to raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care, and they are all looking forward to the event.

Sharon said: "It's a great chance for us to do something as a family and give back to Marie Curie Cancer Care for the support they gave us earlier this year."

"I encourage everyone to sign up and take part in Walk Ten on August 4."

To register for your nearest Walk Ten, or for more information, go to: www.mariecurie.org.uk/walkten or call 08700 340040; or email: claire.notman@mariecurie.org.uk.

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Another fantastic competition exclusively for GEM readers



Win Doctor Who Experience tickets with the Glamorgan Gem

The TARDIS has landed, just minutes away from where the iconic BBC series, Dr Who, is filmed in Cardiff!

We have two adult and two children's tickets to give away to the Dr Who Experience, the fantastic interactive experience letting visitors get up close to incredible sets, costumes and props!

After a successful run in London's Olympia 2 exhibition centre, the Dr Who Experience has just moved to its new home in Cardiff Bay, where visitors to the attraction will also be treated to new items to be on show to the public for the very first time!



For your chance to win tickets, just tell us who currently plays The Doctor?

Send your answers, marked 'Dr Who Competition' to Glamorgan Gem, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge by August 3rd. The judge's decision is final – good luck! Each family ticket allows entry of 4 people (2 adults and 2 children under the age of 16) into the attraction. Tickets are valid until 9 December 2012, excluding Tuesdays. Tickets are subject to availability.

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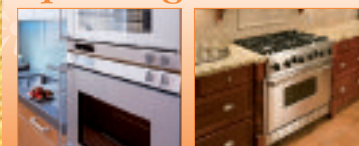
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LET'S ALL GET BEHIND OUR EIGHT WELSH OLYMPIANS!

IT'S been a busy year of celebrations thus far, with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and then the Olympic torch relay, which will culminate with the start of the London Olympic Games tomorrow.

The citizens of the Vale and Bridgend county boroughs have eight sporting warriors ready to take up arms and fight for medals, but who are they, and when are they competing?

First up is footballer **Craig Bellamy** (33), who resides in Peterston-super-Ely, whose Olympic schedule actually gets under way a day early (today) as the Team GB men's football team face Senegal at Manchester United's Old Trafford Stadium.

The Liverpool striker has amassed 69 caps for Wales and appeared for a host of big clubs, includ-

ing Manchester City, Newcastle United and Celtic. His quest for gold runs until the gold medal match on August 11.

There are two Vale swimmers for readers to cheer on. Firstly, Barry-born **David Davies** (27) will be competing for Team GB in the 1,500m discipline, freestyle. He holds a bronze in the 1,500m from Athens 2004, his personal best and a British record in that event, and followed that up with silver in the 10km marathon at Beijing in 2008. His discipline begins on July 28, with the medal events on Saturday, August 4.

Penarth's 19-year-old **Ieuan Lloyd** goes into his first Olympics as the world No 28, and will compete in the 200m freestyle and 4x200m freestyle events. A double 2011 European junior champion, he also gets under way on July 28, with his individual medal event on that day, and the 4x200m medal events taking place on Tuesday, July 31.

Cyclist **Nicole Cooke** (29), who grew up in Wick in the Vale and attended Brynteg Comprehensive School in Bridgend, is one of world cycling's top road racers. A gold medalist in Beijing (the first for Wales in 36 years), she also became the only cyclist that year to win the Olympic and world title double. She will compete on Sunday July 29.

Barry boxer **Andrew Selby** (23), ranked No 1 in the AIBA rankings, and a former Rhosneig Boxing Club competitor, will box for TeamGB at fly-weight. His campaign kicks off on Monday, July 30, with his division's medal events taking place on Sunday, August 12.

The 400m hurdler **Rhys Williams** (28), from Bridgend, son of Welsh rugby legend JJ Williams, will be hoping to ease through alongside Team GB's athletics captain Dai Greene.

Having triumphed at this year's European Championships in Helsinki recently, he will be hopeful of carrying that form in to the Olympics.

His Games kick-off on August 3, with the medal events three days later on August 6.

Wales' sole triathlete is 28-year-old **Helen Jenkins**, who lives in Bridgend.

The three-time ITU World Championships gold medalist is one of the favourites for London, and will want to put the disappointment of her 21st place finish in Beijing to rest. She competes on Saturday, August 4.

Finally, we have Penarth-born discus thrower **Brett Morse** (23). The British under-23 and Welsh record holder's form has dipped recently, but he will be hoping that changes in London. He will compete from August 6-7.

LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

Cadet donates to the Legion

AT a meeting of the Barry Army Cadets on July 19, Lance Corporal Jack Burnett presented £40 to the Barry branch of the Royal British Legion.

On Armed Forces Day, he was in his Army Cadet's uniform and held a collection for the RBL Poppy Appeal at his School, Barry Boys

Comprehensive.

It was a fine effort by this young cadet, and he was thanked by the Barry branch at a presentation by Legion Poppy Appeal organiser, Mr Steve Whitehorn, in the presence of the Barry Town Mayor, Coun Les Sword, the Barry branch president, Mr Keith Harris, and chairman, Mr Stan Smith. DBS



ABOVE: Lance Corporal Jack Burnett hands over the cheque to the Barry branch of the Royal British Legion.

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BARRY ARTS FESTIVAL



FRIDAY 27TH JULY - SUNDAY 5TH AUGUST 2012



Fri 27th July, 8pm **Ship Hotel**
Taran Tickets reduced to £4

Two days before they represent Wales in the Interceltic festival in France, Barry-based folk band play their "innovative mix of traditional Welsh music welded to driving riffs and throbbing beats". Support by folk rock band Adran D



Sat 28th July 2-3pm
Windsor Road Church £5

Del Rey

Women in American Music follows the development of the music from classic blues to swing and rocking hillbillies, through the stories of the diverse and interesting women that played music from 1900 to 1950.

Sat 28th July 8pm
West End Club £10



Del Rey

Del Rey dazzles with her mastery of the Resophonic guitar, her flawless finger picking style conjuring up two handed boogie woogie piano lines, and then she proceeds to amaze you with her dexterity on the humble ukulele, an instrument you will never look at in the same way again. Del will be supported by local band Jelly Roll Jones.

Sun 29th July: 1.00-6pm
(doors open for a performance of workshop pieces at 5pm) WRC Participants £10, performance £3



Choral day with Jeff Howard

Leading UK choral conductor Jeff Howard will lead a mix of Royal, Military and Jenkins pieces – a must for anyone involved in the current revival of choral singing. Please bring your own refreshments.

Mon 30th July 10am onwards
WRC Free



Mural day

Becci Holmes, a local artist, has designed a mural on the theme of Barry. Anyone can come along and help paint a section between 10-12 and 2-4. Children 11 and under accompanied by an adult. The finished mural will be on display at Windsor Rd on Friday 3rd August. Other craft activities and practical demonstrations will be happening during this family-friendly day. Local authors including Catherine Jones, Dave Alexander and Michelle Briscoe will be talking about their books between 1.30 and 4pm.

Tues 31st July 8pm
Masonic Hall £12



Summer songs - with Tim & Suzannah



Compered by local funny guy Mark Thompson, chill out to timeless classics by artists such as Natalie Cole, Michael Buble, Norah Jones and Bobby Darin. Then when the sun goes down get up and dance to the perfect summer playlist! Ticket includes buffet and close up magic with Simon.

Wed 1st August 7.30 Board Room, Dock Offices £10

Poetry reading by Grahame Davies and Tony Curtis

Tony Curtis and Graham Davies will read from their own work. Tony was born in Carmarthen and now lives in Barry. Grahame is a Welsh poet and writer who has won numerous prizes, including the Wales Book of the Year Award.

Thur 2nd August 11am-1pm
Barry Library £10

Creative writing workshop with Tony Curtis.

Only 2 spaces left! Contact dot.connell@virgin.net to book one of the final places

Thur 2nd August 8pm
Masonic Hall £10

Boyd Clack

Boyd comes to Barry Arts Festival on Thursday the 2nd of August to perform for the first half of the open mic night at the Masonic Hall, Barry. Festival organisers were at a loss to know how to replace the Amigos who have sadly been forced to withdraw from the concert planned for that night and they have planned an open mic fundraiser for Ty Hapus dementia centre in Barry.

Fri 3rd August 7.30pm Board Room, Dock Offices £12

Gillian Clarke

The National Poet of Wales will read and reminisce about her childhood in Barry. Gillian Clarke was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry 2010 and the Wilfred Owen Award 2012.

Sun 5th August 8pm Ship Hotel (upstairs room) £3

Barry musician & sound artist Chris Young premieres "Bricks and mortar", written for the festival.

Wall-hanging Project

All over Barry and beyond squares have been made for a commemorative wall-hanging. It has been sewn together and is now over 7ft tall and 6ft wide. Come and see it on Friday the 3rd August between 10 and 4pm in WRC. The community mural will also be on display.

THE FRINGE

These events are being run by partner organisations

Mon 30th July - Fri 3rd August 10am-4pm
Crossway Methodist Church

Pukka's Summer Sizzler - Week of performing fun on the theme "boy bands". Ages 3-10. Pukka is also offering childcare daily from 8-10am, and 4-6pm for £10 per session. The whole package £160 for the week.

Mon 13th - Fri 17th Aug
10am-4pm

Pukka's (2nd) Summer Sizzler - Another week of performing fun with "Chicago". Ages 10+. £80 for the 5 days.

For bookings and details contact Sarah-07917881220 or email pukkaproductions@yahoo.co.uk

Fri 3rd August 10am-4pm WRC

Baruc Art Group Open Day. Come and see the work of Windsor Road Church's resident artists! Free

Fri 3rd August 2-4pm WRC

Alan Sinclair, Affordable Housing Enabler, will be available to clarify and discuss a project aimed at providing studio space/accommodation for local artists, hopefully in the Barry area.

Mon 30th July-Fri 3rd August
10am-4pm WRC Free

PIPS The Positive Image Photographic Society will display a selection of prints. Club members will also be available to answer questions about photography and the club.

VOGA Vale of Glamorgan Artists are exhibiting work in various media.

Barry Camera Club a display of members' work from the past year.

Local unaffiliated artists will also be exhibiting

Mon 30th July-Fri 3rd August
11am-5pm
Canonhill Art Space, Canon St

Art4u Exhibition of "Between the Lines", Glyn Pooley's drawings and photographs of local people. Free but donations welcome. www.art4uwales.org.uk

Sun 29th July 2-8pm Knap Lake

Art4u Friendship Concert 29th July 2-8pm. Come and enjoy the sounds and relaxed atmosphere of Art4u's second gathering of talented musicians, local and not-so-local. Free, but donations welcome. www.art4uwales.org.uk

Tue 31st July 12-1pm, and 1-2.30pm WRC £4

Superstars director Chris Bullen leads street dance workshops. 12-1pm age 10-13, 1-2.30pm age 14+ Booking essential. Phone Chris on 07531814820.

Sat/Sun 4th and 5th of August
2-6pm Victoria Park, Barry

It's back! And it's going to be even better than last year's huge success. Local musicians, singers and choirs including Barry Ladies, Vale Voices and Barry Male Voice come together on the Saturday. The Sunday will rock with bands and Peter Karrie.

HOW TO BUY TICKETS:

You can buy tickets in two ways: Online at **www.porthceri.co.uk** (via Paypal).

Or from local outlets: **Gifted** 4 High Street, Barry CF62 7DZ, 01446 721339
Barry Eye Centre 87 Holton Road, Barry CF63 4HG, 01446 745606, barryeyecentre.co.uk
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POWER PEDALLING FROM PIER TO PIER



NEIL GRIFFITHS AND RYAN PAYNE.

TWO adventurous charity fundraisers cycled 200 miles from Bangor pier to Penarth pier in 14 hours for the Bridgend-based Buy As You View at 40 charity fund.

Neil Griffiths and Ryan Payne travelled through the heart of Wales, including Snowdonia National Park and the Brecon Beacons before finishing their journey in Penarth.

Buy As You View is currently aiming to raise £40,000 for seven sepa-

rate charities across the regions they operate in to celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Neil Griffiths, warehouse distributor at Buy As You View, said: "I am no stranger to cycling long distances as I cycle 200 miles to and from work every week, but I have never attempted that distance in just 14 hours before."

"Ryan and I knew it was going to be a challenge, especially as we had to cycle through the winding, steep country roads in the Snowdonia National Park - but it was fantastic."

'Dairy farmers being squeezed out of existence' - SAYS CONSERVATIVE MP



ABOVE: Alun Cairns MP, Richard Street, Abigail Reader, John Hanks, and Emma Street at the meeting to urge supermarkets and milk processors not to cut their prices.

VALE MP Alun Cairns last week threw his weight behind local dairy farmers protesting against cuts in milk prices paid by supermarkets.

He agreed with farmers at a protest meeting in Westminster that they were "being squeezed out of existence".

The meeting involved hundreds of farmers from across the UK, including many from the local area.

Mr Cairns welcomed a pledge of £5million from the UK Government to

support the dairy industry, but he stated that the Welsh dairy industry needs urgent support from the Welsh Government to protect jobs, as producers face cuts in farm-gate prices.

"Last week, serious concerns were raised about the impact of a cut of 1.7 pence per litre imposed by Robert Wiseman Dairies. Many milk processors have cut the price paid to dairy farmers for this liquid milk in recent times."

"These cuts mean that most farmers would be selling milk for less than it costs to produce," the MP said.



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To register you will need: Registration with the GTCW or have CACHE level 1-4 or a degree and have a minimum of 8 months experience with children in a classroom setting within the last 4 years.

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PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Ramblers follow in historic tram tracks

RECENTLY, Phil and Barrie stepped in to lead a replacement walk for Penarth and District Ramblers, and having parked at the Cray (Crai) reservoir, the group of 10 walkers set off on an overcast morning, with sunny periods throughout the day.

The reservoir was built between 1898 and 1906 by the Swansea Corporation, originally to supply water to the Swansea area in an area known for its high rainfall and, more importantly, upstream from the industrialised area of the Tawe Valley. They headed south-east across the wet and boggy moorland and followed the Nant Gylhyrch river, climb-

ing up into the forest where they stopped for morning coffee before continuing along forestry paths to Bwlch y Duwnt.

Changing course, they turned southwest, met a group of youngsters who were taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's gold award scheme and climbed gently up Fan Gylhyrch, where the trig point stands at 725-metres, with its 360-degree spectacular views.

John Christie, a wealthy Scottish entrepreneur, bought the Crown Allotment of Fforest Fawr (the great forest) in 1819 and built the Brecon Forest Tramroad, which crossed the north and west flanks of Fan Gylhyrch.

Later, the Neath and Brecon Railway was constructed, which

followed part of the route of the old tram road and which eventually closed in the 1960s.

After lunch, the group moved on to another forest between the Nant Byfre and Nant yr Wydd streams and experienced a sharp rain shower, then trekked a very wet track back to their cars.

On July 28, meet at 9am at Cogan for an 8.5-mile moderate/hard walk at Parc Cwm Darran near Bargoed.

Contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

On August 2, meet at 7pm opposite the Colcot Arms pub on Colcot Road, Barry for a three or four-mile easy/moderate walk at New and Old Wallace Farms.

Contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

JOY STRANGWARD

Music tuition in memory of young Cerys

THE Cerys Potter Foundation is supporting the Cardiff county and Vale of Glamorgan Music Service by funding innovative music tuition at two Vale schools.

The foundation was set up in memory of Cerys Potter, aged nine, who died in a rafting accident in Turkey in 2010.

Cadoxton Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School were given a total of £6,000 for lessons in string instruments and African drumming.

Cerys' mum, Julie Potter, said: "This is inclusive - every child in the class will be given the same opportunity to

learn, and if there is a shining talent, we may be able to offer a disadvantaged child that extra bit of support."

Cerys loved singing, dancing, acting, and playing the piano and recorder. The committee felt that it would be an excellent opportunity for the charity to give its support to two classes in Vale schools.

The foundation aims to provide financial support, equipment and resources to assist children who might not otherwise have the opportunities to nurture and develop performing arts and musical talent.

For more information on the Cerys Potter Foundation, visit: www.ceryspotterfoundation.org.

Spooky memory of Dunraven Castle!

WITH reference to a recent GEM article, my sister and I attended a Workers' Educational Association (WEA) course at Dunraven Castle in about 1949.

We stayed there over one weekend together with other students; the female students slept in a dormitory and presumably so did the men.

Large wardrobes, as big as a small room, were situated in the dormitory, available for us to hang the few clothes we had brought with us.

We had been told about the ghostly presence of the 'Blue Lady' who was reputed to haunt the castle. Come bedtime, I retreated into one of the wardrobes to

change into my 'blue nightdress'. Not noticing that I was absent from the main room, lights were turned off.

Imagine how the students felt when I suddenly emerged from the wardrobe in my blue nightdress...shock at first and then lots of laughter!

At the end of the weekend, a photograph was taken of the whole group, male and female students. I haven't got a copy of it, which is a pity, as it would provide an interesting reminder of the many WEA classes held there over several years.

The WEA still carries out its core duty of providing educational opportunities for the general community. Dilys Colbourne Barry

Show boosts appeal

THE Vintage Model Railway Exhibition organised by Bernard Honeysett on July 15 in aid of All Saints Organ Appeal, raised £280.

A steady stream of visitors throughout the day included young children, dads and grandparents enjoying the two running lines, which consisted of a variety of locomotives, including a Clockwork No2 Special loco that had not turned a wheel for 50 years, gallantly managing three circuits.

The event also included many other items within the static display, prior to 1928 to more modern replica locomotives, and rolling stock from the 1930s and 1940s.

The Hogwarts' Express was enjoyed by all (including Emma the Asst Curate) with its working lights and the engine emitting real smoke.

Thanks also to Alun Thomas, who sold nearly all his cardboard house models and donated his takings to the event.

Grateful thanks to Vina for organising the raffle, and Mark, Kate and Bernard for supporting refreshments and setting up the event.

Roadworks
ROADWORKS:
A4055 Leckwith Road, Leckwith;
Barry Docks Link Road, junction of Coldbrook Road and Argae Lane;
A48 Cowbridge bypass and A48 Sycamore Cross;
A4050 Port Road, junction with Pencoedre Lane, Barry.

The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge

How a casual chat in the bar of his home-town local became a life-changing experience for hotel owner



FLASHBACK: Julian Hitchcock - the youngest hotel manager in the country.

WHEN a 22-year-old Vale man on a trainee work placement at London's Hotel Europa came home for the weekend and popped into the bar of his 'local' for a pint with some pals, little did he realise it would be a life-changing experience.

For his 'local' was one of Cowbridge's most iconic landmarks, the historic Bear Hotel, whose roots date back to the founding of the town in the 13th century by Richard de Clare, Lord of Glamorgan, who seized the manor of Llanbleddin in 1245, and subsequently granted Cowbridge its first

charter in 1254.

The young Vale man in question was Julian Hitchcock, and a casual chat over the bar with the manager that night in 1982 led to the former student at Cardiff College of Food & Technology being offered a job on the spot - as the hotel's assistant manager!

When the manager left just a few months later, for pastures new, the then owner,

Porthcawl businessman Howard Lewis, offered a dumbstruck Julian the chance to become the youngest hotel manager in Britain.

(Remarkably, yet another chance encounter in the front bar of The Bear was also to change the direction of his life - for it was there that he met his future wife, Esther).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

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The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge

After the low point came the take-off!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)
Earlier, during a brief period on the staff of the Midland Bank in Cowbridge (now HSBC), a customer had advised a frustrated Julian to "take a change of direction" and set him on a rollercoaster ride of ever-rapid career developments.

In 1984, he was asked to take over the Three Salmon at Usk, in addition to managing the Bear (he also became responsible for the company's Soul Plance and Tappers Bar in Mill Lane, Cardiff) and, subsequently, the St Mellons Hotel & Country Club – at the age of just 26.

A high point came in 1990 when he was asked to take charge of the 4-star New House Country Hotel, which was opened in 1990 by the then Welsh Secretary of State, Peter Walker – but the low point came a year later, when recession forced the whole group into receivership.

Julian and Esther were forced to drastically re-assess and acquired the Bush Inn at St Hilary, concentrating all of their efforts there, until one day in May 1992, an accountant friend, Peter Dewey, suggest-

ed that he buy The Bear.

The couple and their three children, Fred, Charles and Lydia (their youngest son, Harry, came along later) took over the Bear, in partnership with Julian's brother, Mark, and Peter, leaving Julian's mum in charge at the Bush, which has since been sold.

The mellow old Cowbridge building, which had begun life as a medieval town house for local gentry, and then became a noted 18th century coaching inn, was "quite run down", and badly in need of a modern makeover, Julian recalls.

It has since undergone an extensive but discreet refurbishment over several years, designed to ease it painlessly into the 21st century – epitomised by the mysterious 'Bear Pit' vault.

Believed to date back to the 12th-13th century, it became a smart, unique restaurant, as the one-time hostelry was transformed into a 36-bedroom hotel – "all but one are double rooms" (Julian says proudly) with 64 full and part time staff, and all modern – without losing the essential old world charm that



ABOVE: Fundraising group The Bear Back Riders: Julian (far left), wife Esther, Freddie Hitchcock, Geoff and Isabel Graham, Paul and Caroline Hole and Nigel and Marianne England, pictured at a fundraising summer ball in the New House Country Hotel, Cardiff.

makes it such an enduring social magnet for local diners and visitors alike.

The old Bear's younger sibling, Oscar's, opened a few doors away in 2005 (and another in Cardiff), but the heartening success story of a local business family 'made good' does not end there.

Its expanded Town & Country Hotels' portfolio has included the four-star New House Hotel, Cardiff, The Three Salmon at Usk (later sold), and the Coed-y-Mwstwr at Coychurch.

In 2004, Town & Country Catering was launched, and this year has achieved a record – with 42 wedding functions booked in marquees and castles around Wales. However, Julian's special affection for the old Bear at Cowbridge is clear, as he emphasises concern for maintaining its unique, historic character, while ensuring that it fulfils the ever-changing demands of a more modern age.

Like all venerable

old buildings steeped in history, the Bear retains an air of mystery, along (of course) with some non-paying 'guests'... "Yes, we do have a couple of resident ghosts here" says Julian with a smile.

It seems there had been a blaze at the hotel during the early part of the last century in which a seven-year-old girl had sadly perished:

"On separate occasions, three different couples staying here have each reported seeing an image of their seven-year-old daughter in the room and then a strong smell of burning."

In reception, where there used to be a staircase, he recalls, a



Picture: Mike Wilcock.

The courtyard at The Bear affords customers an outdoor seated area to enjoy their food.

porter had reported seeing a pair of legs disappearing up the non-existent staircase and directly into the ceiling!

"I had a bad experience myself. While working late here one night on paperwork I heard a voice crying out – 'Help me!'"

"At first, I thought it was someone larking about, but when I heard it again in reception at 2.30 in the morning, I called the police and a constable came to check it out. "However, we found nothing," Julian adds. DON JOHN

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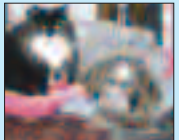


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THE imminent arrival of the

National Eisteddfod in Llandow, has been welcomed by local businesses and community councils in the area – and they are confident that the many visitors will see the Vale looking its best!

In fact, it is only just

over a week since the Vale held its 'Best Kept Village' competition (won by Ystradowen), and that means local hamlets are pristine.

Llantwit Major and Cowbridge, the two nearest towns to the Eisteddfod site, have been making plans to give visitors a warm welcome.

As Llantwit is the point of arrival for anyone travelling to the Eisteddfod by rail, and

by PHILIP IRWIN

as Cowbridge can expect bus passengers from Cardiff and Bridgend, both towns will have shuttle buses buzzing back and forth, taking people to the Maes.

It also means that Eisteddfod visitors who fancy a break, or a change of scenery, can pop into one or both towns to have a look around.

As a result, in

Cowbridge the chamber of trade has organised a rota of 'meetings and greeters' from local comprehensive schools – charged with letting visitors know what they can see and do in the town.

Natalie Isaac, from Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, said: "The 'meetings and greeters' will be young people from local schools – including some Welsh speakers – who will be there as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate studies.

"They will be able to direct visitors to attractions such as the Physic Garden, and they will be able to advise on where to eat, and let people know about those 'nooks and crannies' in the town which they might otherwise not notice."

The chamber of trade has also made a large quantity of bunting available to retailers, and the town should be proudly displaying the Eisteddfod colours by the time the

jamboree starts.

In Llantwit Major, the Eisteddfod is due to be welcomed with a marathon bell-ringing effort from St Illtud's Church, where a 'full peal of bells' – lasting three hours – is to be rung at 10am on Saturday, August 4.

The town's chamber of trade has also invested in Eisteddfod bunting, and has also

bought Welsh flags for flagpoles around the town.

Janet Moisan of the Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade told The GEM: "There should be even more bunting up by the time the Eisteddfod starts, as the Vale Council has said that it will be putting its own up, too!"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)

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ONLY MEN ALOUD. (SEE PAGE 4)

CROESO I'R EISTEDDFOD!

EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORGANNWG VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

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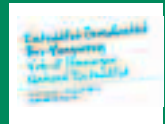


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EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORGANNWG VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD



CEREMONIES THAT CELEBRATE CENTURIES OF WELSH CULTURE

THE Gorsedd ceremonies are some of the most memorable moments at any National Eisteddfod.

The Pavilion lights are dimmed and an expectant hush descends upon the capacity audience as they await the fanfare of horns.

Lights sweep across a sea of faces until one, and only one, person rises. On stage, the Archdruid stands in his golden regalia while behind him, the green, blue and white robed rows of Gorsedd members make for a striking backcloth.

For the writers themselves, the drama will have started months before, as they rush to get their entries in on time, using pseudonyms, instead of their real names.

The winner's identity will be kept a very close secret known to only a few. The rest of the ceremony is just thrilling – it is one of the great

spectacles of Welsh culture. The Gorsedd of the Bards is a society of poets, writers, musicians, artists and individuals who have made a notable contribution to the nation, its language and culture.

It is the Gorsedd who are responsible for the pageantry of the National Eisteddfod of Wales and it organises and presents the colourful and dramatic ceremonies which are held during the festival.

The Gorsedd, as you may have read recently in *The GEM*, was the creative invention of Iolo Morganwg, one of Wales' most famous and eccentric scholars, who felt that it should be made known that the Welsh were the direct descendants of Celtic culture and heritage.

Iolo Morganwg (or Edward Williams to give him his real name) was born at Pen-onn, near Llancarfan, and was raised in the village of Flemingston in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Gorsedd of Bards

Story of the Gorsedd by SIONED EDWARDS

first came together in 1792, not in Wales as you might expect, but on Primrose Hill in London.

It made its first appearance at the Eisteddfod in Carmarthen in 1819, and from the time that the National was born in 1860/1861 its close association with the Festival has remained. The head of the Gorsedd of Bards is the Archdruid, who is elected for a term of three years, and is responsible for conducting the Gorsedd ceremonies during the Proclamation and Eisteddfod week.

The current Archdruid is T James Jones, or Jim Parc Nest, to give his bardic name.

The ceremony in which the winning poet is chaired for composing a collection of poems, an ode or other poem – all in strict metres on a specific subject, is one of the highlights of the Gorsedd of the Bards' pageantry in every National Eisteddfod. It is held on the Friday afternoon of the Eisteddfod week.

It is a very old ceremony. The custom of competing for a chair in the King's court was already well-established in Hywel Dda's time in the tenth century and when the Lord Rhys held his Eisteddfod.

In Cardigan in 1176, the prize for the chief poet and chief musician was a chair each. Having re-established the eisteddfodic movement in Bala in 1789, winning the Chair became the ambition of every poet, although there was no Gorsedd ceremony associated with it yet.

It was at the first provincial Eisteddfod in Dyfed/Dinefwr in Carmarthen in 1819 that Iolo succeeded in linking the rites of the Gorsedd of the Bards with the ceremony of Chairing the winning Bard.



Vale of Glamorgan Eisteddfod proclamation ceremony, June 2011.

In 1867, it was decided to assign the Chair for an ode in strict metre and to award a Crown for the best pydded in free metre.

The Chairing ceremony at 1917 Birkenhead Eisteddfod was both memorable and harrowing.

Hedd Wyn was the bardic name of Ellis Humphrey Evans, a Trawsfynydd shepherd and gifted poet.

Ellis had joined the thousands of soldiers serving on the Western Front during World War I and drew upon his wartime experiences to write the poem *Yr Arwr* (The Hero), which describes the realities of war for both the soldiers and their families back home.

Back in Birkenhead, as the judges called out the name of the victorious bard, there was silence in the auditorium. Hedd Wyn had been killed six weeks earlier on July 31, 1917, during the battle for Pilckem Ridge, Ypres.

The Crowning ceremony which is held on the Monday of the Eisteddfod week is equally impressive.

For the first time during the Eisteddfod week, the Flower Dance will be performed, a colourful part of the Gorsedd ceremonies.

Local girls are chosen to perform the dance, which is based on a pattern of flower gathering from the fields.

Girls aged 9–11 from all over the Vale of Glamorgan were invited to an open audition last year to select the Flower Dancers; 34 were successful and performed the dance for the first time at the Proclamation Ceremony in Barry held in June 2011.

The dance portrays the gathering of meadow flowers and the girls dress in green tunics adorned with wild flowers. However, it is a comparatively recent

junior school teachers from the area.

One of the most prominent roles played during these ceremonies will be that by ex-Scarlets and Wales rugby star turned coach, Robin McBryde, as the Grand Sword Bearer.

He will carry the Great Gorsedd sword during the Gorsedd processions and, during the ceremonies themselves, holding it aloft to the Archdruid's call for peace. Carrying a sword was one of the rituals in Iolo Morganwg's first Gorsedd held in Primrose Hill.

Iolo, a pacifist, wanted to emphasise that the Bards met in peace and when a naked sword was placed on the Logan Stone (the main stone in the middle of the Gorsedd Circle where the Archdruid stands) they proceeded to sheath it as a symbol of peace

in Gorsedd.

In 1888, Phillip Yorke of Erddig Hall, presented a ceremonial sword to the Gorsedd, which was used until the turn of the century. Then, in 1899, Professor Hubert Herkomer designed a Grand Sword for the Gorsedd.

This is the Grand Sword still in use today.

The Gorsedd Ceremonies at the Vale of Glamorgan Eisteddfod will be held on Monday, August 6 (Crowning ceremony), Wednesday August 8 (Literary medal) and Friday, August 10 (Chairing ceremony).

Tickets for the ceremonies, which include field admission for that day, are now on sale and available to buy from the Eisteddfod website: www.eisteddfod.org.uk or by phoning the ticket hotline on 0845 4090 800.

Croeso i'r Brifwyl

A R ran Pwyllgor Gwaith Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, mae'n bleser gennyf eich croesawu i'r Brifwyl eleni.

Bu trigolion y Fro wrthi'n ddiwyd am bron i ddwy flynedd yn paratoi, ac o'r diwedd, mae'r Maes ar ei draed a thros yr wythnos nesaf bydd llygaid Cymru gyfan arnom wrth i ni groesawu 150,000 – 160,000 o ymwelwyr i'r ardal.

Mawr yw ein diolch i bawb a fu mor gefnogol wrth i ni baratoi ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod. Mae'r ymateb yma yn ardal y Fro wedi bod yn ardderchog, ac rwy'n sicr y bydd pawb sy'n ymweld ag Eisteddfod Bro Morgannwg yn cael modd i fyw, a chroeso cynnes gan yr ardal, ar y Maes, yn ein trefi a'n pentrefi deniadol neu wrth ymweld ag un o'n hatyniadau lleol.

Rydym yn edrych ymlaen i groesawu ffyddloniaid yr Eisteddfod, sydd wedi bod yn paratoi i ddod atom ers amser, ond bydd y croeso yr un mor frwd ar gyfer unrhyw un sy'n dod atom am y tro cyntaf, a rydym yn annog trigolion y Fro yn arbennig i ddod draw i'r Maes i weld beth sydd ar gael.

Eleni, mae mwya o weithgareddau teuluol nag erioed o'r blaen, ac rwy'n mawr oethio y bydd digonedd i gadw'r teulu cyfan yn ddiwyd am oriau lawer.

Dyma'r tro cyntaf i'r



Dr Dylan Jones, chair of the Vale of Glamorgan Eisteddfod Executive Committee.

Eisteddfod ymweld ag ardal Bro Morgannwg ers 1968. Gadawodd yr Eisteddfod honno ei hól ar genedlaeth gyfan, a'n gobaiath yw bydd y Gymraeg yn Mro Morgannwg yn ffynnu ymhellach yn sgîl ei hymwelid y tro hwn, ac y bydd trigolion lleol yn cael modd i fyw yn Mhrifwyl ein gwlad.

Diolch am eich cefnogaeth a mwynhewch yr wyl.

Welcome to the Eisteddfod ON behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod Executive, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this year's festival.

Local residents across the region have worked tirelessly for the past two years fundraising and raising awareness, and at last, the Maes is in place. Over the next week, the eyes of Wales

will be upon us, as we welcome between 150,000 and 160,000 visitors to the region.

We are grateful for all the support we are prepared for the Eisteddfod, and I am sure that everyone visiting this year's festival will enjoy a real Vale of Glamorgan welcome, whether it's on the Maes itself, in one of our attractive towns or villages, or when visiting one of the many local attractions.

We look forward to welcoming the Eisteddfod stalwarts who attend the festival annually, but the welcome will be just as warm for everyone coming to see us for the first time; and we encourage all of you to come to the Maes to see what's on offer.

There's more family activities than ever before at this year's event, and I very much hope that you'll have a day to remember.

This is the Eisteddfod's first visit to the Vale since 1968, and the festival left a lasting impact on a generation of local residents 44 years ago.

Let's work together to ensure the same thing happens again, and that we see the language and the culture of Wales go from strength to strength across the Vale in years to come.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the Eisteddfod.

DYLAN JONES
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Gwaith/Executive Committee Chair

David Melding

Regional AM for South Wales Central



“As a Welsh learner who lives in Penarth, it gives me particular pleasure to welcome the Eisteddfod to the Vale of Glamorgan”

**Residents of South Wales Central can contact my office for help and advice:
29 High Street, Barry CF62 7EB.**

“Fel dysgwr sy'n byw ym Mhenarth mae'n rhoi pleser mawr i mi groesawu'r Eisteddfod i Fro Morgannwg”

**Gall trigolion Canol De Cymru gysylltu â'm swyddfa am gymorth a chynghor:
29 Stryd Fawr, Y Barri CF62 7EB.**

Tel/Ffôn: 01446 744126

**E-Mail/E-Bost:
david.melding@wales.gov.uk**

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CORONAU EISTEDDFODAU BRO MORGANNWG

UN o'r prif wobrau a ddyfennir mewn unrhyw Eisteddfod yw'r Goron a roddir i'r Bryddest orau. Mewn seremoni arbennig a gynhelir ar Ddydd Llun yr Eisteddfod, fe goronir Bardd gan yr Archdderwydd mewn seremoni ysblynnedd.

Dyma un o ddigwyddiadau mwyaf cofiadwy unrhyw Eisteddfod. Mae golau'r Pafiliwn yn cael ei bylu ac mae ton o dawelwch yn disgyn dros y gynulleidfa wrth iddynt aros am alwad y Cynr Gwlad.

Ysgubir golau ar draws y pafiliwn cyn cyrraedd un man lle sefir y bardd buddugol ar ei dthraed. Saif yr Archdderwydd ar y llwyfan yn ei regalia aur gyda'r Orsedd tu cefn iddo yn barod i gyfarch y bardd ar y llwyfan.

I'r beirdd ei hunain dyma benllanw misoedd o aros ers postio'r gwaith erbyn y dyddiad cau gan ddefnyddio ffug enw yn hytrach na'i enwau bob dydd. Cedwir enw'r bardd buddugol yn gudd, gyda dim ond ychydig yn gwybod y gyfrinach. Mae'r seremoni yn un gwefreiddiol – un o uchafshwytiau celfyddyd Cymraeg.

Testun y Goron eleni yw 'Ynys' gyda Cen Williams, Cyril Jones a Penri Roberts yn beirniadu. Noddir y Goron gan Gyngor Bro Morgannwg ac efallai bod rhai ohonoch wedi darllen yn ddiweddar fod y gemydd lleol Anne Morgan o Benarth wedi ei dewis i greu y Goron.

Onid beth am sere-

moniau Coroni'r ddwy Eisteddfod arall sydd wedi ymweld â'r Fro?

1920: Noddwyd y Goron gan Mr TH Morley o Sully a rhoddwyd gwerth o £30 arni. Arddangoswyd y goron cyn yr Eisteddfod yn siop ffenest John Jones & Co, 114 Holton Road y Bari.

Dyfarwydd y goron i löwr ifanc, James Evans, yn wreiddiol o Feulah, Castell Newydd Emlyn ond ar y pryd yn byw yn Ynysyhir, Rhondda. Dyma'r tro cyntaf i James Evans ennill y goron yn y Genedlaethol er iddo ennill sawl tro mewn Eisteddfodau lleol.

Wedi dilyn cwrs gradd yn Mhrifysgol Cymru fe'i hyfforddwyd ar gyfer y weinidogaeth ond yn ôl y South Wales News bu rhaid iddo "relinquish the pulpit for the pit due to a speech impediment".

Yn ôl yr adroddiad roedd yr Olyfga yn y pafiliwn yn un ysbrydoledig gyda thorf o rhwng 10,000 - 12,000 yn bresennol gyda'r Archdderwydd Dyfed wrth y llyw.

Yr Athro WJ Gruffydd oedd yn tradodi'r feirniadaeth a darganfuwyd yn fuan nad oedd y dorf helaeth yn gallu ei glywed ac felly bu'n rhaid ffeindio 'megaphone' ar gyfer y feirniadaeth.

Roedd yn feirniadaeth hallt fodd bynnag, gyda'r beirniad yn nodi taw dim ond tri o'r un deg saith a ymgeisiodd oedd yn werth unrhyw ystyriaeth.

Yn ôl y Western Mail pan roddwyd y Goron ar ben y bardd roedd yn rhy fach a phan gododd ar ei draed fe gwympodd y goron i'r llawr!



LEFT:
L Haydn Lewis, winner of the Crown at the 1968 Eisteddfod in Barry.

Cafwyd cyntaf arall yn ystod yr Eisteddfod hefyd gan i'r gerdd fuddugol gael ei chyhoeddi am y tro cyntaf yn union ar ôl y seremoni.

1968: Noddwyd Coron Eisteddfod y Bari 1968 gan Mr a Mrs Dan Evans y Bari ac roedd yn nodweddiadol am y ffaith mai plastig oedd y prif ddefnydd. Penderfynwyd y byddai'n symbolig i ddefnyddio'r plastig yn y cynllun gan mai cynhyrchu plastig oedd un o brif ddiwydiannau'r dref.

Creuwyd y goron gan Keith Redfern oedd ar y pryd yn un o'r prif gynllunwyr oedd yn gweithio gyda'r defnydd. Defnyddwyd plastig ac arian yn y cynllun gyda melfed porffor yn gorffennol y gwaith i greu coron a ddisgrifiwyd ar y pryd yn y Faner fel: "Portread celfydd o goron mewn defnydd cyfoes".

Derbyniwyd 22 o gerddi ar y testun 'Meini' gyda phrydddest gweinidog o'r Rhondda, Parch Haydn Lewis oedd yn enedigol o Geredigion, yn fuddugol. Ysbydolwyd y gerdd gan farwolaeth ei unig ferch ddeng mlynedd yn gynt ac roedd y gerdd yn ddilymiant o'r gerdd a enillodd Coron Eisteddfod Dyffryn Maelor iddo yn 1961.

Daeth y dyfarniad fodd bynnag yn dilyn anghytundeb llwyr rhwng y beirniad, a'r unig ffordd i ddatrys y broblem oedd i ddod â beirniad annibynnol i mewn. Roedd y tri beirniad; Dr Thomas Parry, Parch.

Euros Bowen a Waldo Williams yn gytân ar y tri bardd gorau ymhlith y 22 ond roedd pob un yn ffafrio cerdd wahanol. Am y tro

cyntaf yn eu hanes bu'n rhaid i Gyngor yr Eisteddfod apwyntio beirniad annibynnol a gofynnwyd i Alun Llywelyn Williams i benderfynu rhwng y tri ac fe ddewisodd cerdd Haydn Lewis.

Vale of Glamorgan Eisteddfod Crown

ONE of the main prizes awarded at any Eisteddfod is the Crown – awarded for the best Pryddest (long poem in free metre) during a special ceremony, which is held on the Monday of the Eisteddfod week – the winning poet being crowned by the Archdruid in a spectacular ceremony.

The subject for this year's Crown is 'Ynys' (Island) and it will be adjudicated by Cen Williams, Cyril Jones and Penri Roberts. The Crown is sponsored by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and you may have read recently that local jeweller, Anne Morgan from Penarth, was chosen to design and create the Crown.

But what of the Crowning ceremonies of the two other Eisteddfodau that have visited the Vale?

1920: The Crown was sponsored by Mr TH Morley JP of Sully, valued at £30 and was displayed in Barry in the shop window of John Jones & Co Drapers at 114 Holton Road.

The Crown was awarded to a young col-

charge of proceedings. One of the adjudicators, Professor WJ Gruffydd, who soon found that his voice would not carry to the large crowd present, had to resort to using a megaphone.

He delivered a scathing critique of those who had entered the Crown competition, noting that only three of the 17 were worthy of consideration.

According to the Western Mail, when the Crown was placed on the head of the winning bard it was found to be too small, and a great deal of amusement was caused when the poet rose from his knees, the Crown slipped from his head on to the stage.

For the first time, the winning poet's work was published immediately after the ceremony.

1968: The 1968 Barry Eisteddfod Crown was sponsored by Mr & Mrs Dan

Evans of Barry. It was noteworthy, as the main material used in the Crown was plastic.

It was decided that as the production of plastic was one of the main industries associated with Barry, it would be symbolic to use the material in the design.

The Crown was designed and created by Keith Redfern, who was one of the leading designers working with the material at the time.

Both plastic and silver were used and the Crown was finished with purple velvet to create what was described at the time as an: "Artistic crown using contemporary materials".

Some 22 poems were submitted for the competition, the subject of which was Meini (Stones) and the Crown was won by Rhondda Minister, the Rev Haydn Lewis, who was originally from Ceredigion. The poem

was inspired by the death 10 years previously of his only daughter, and was a continuation of the poem which won Rev Lewis the Crown at the 1961 Maelor Valley Eisteddfod.

The award, however, came only after a very unusual deadlock between the adjudicators – Dr Thomas Parry, Rev Euros Bowen and Waldo Williams.

Each of the three wanted to award the Crown to a different poet, and the argument could only be resolved by inviting an outsider to decide.

The Eisteddfod Council, for the first time in its history, then appointed Alun Llywelyn Williams to choose between the three poems and he chose the poem written by Durtur y Maen, which was the pseudonym of the Rev Lewis.



Eisteddfod Genedlaethol
Bro Morgannwg
4-11 Awst / August 2012
National Eisteddfod
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Mae'n dod...!
It's coming...!

Crown awaits...



THIS year's Eisteddfod Crown has been donated by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the financial prize presented by Islwyn and Ann Jones, Wenvoe. The Crown was designed and created by Anne Morgan of Penarth and was inspired by the landscape of the Vale of Glamorgan, with the rocks and cliffs of the area represented in the simple but bold design. It epitomises the designer's love for the region.

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EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORÇANNWÇ VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD



Now Only Men Aloud inspire youngsters from the Vale

“When everyone is singing together, it’ll be something Eisteddfod has never seen before”

FRESH from their recent success with Only Boys Aloud on Britain’s Got Talent, the members of Only Men Aloud are back at work mentoring and inspiring young children across the Vale of Glamorgan, as they prepare for the National Eisteddfod’s visit to the area at the beginning of August.

Only Vale Kids Aloud, the latest in the family of choirs, will perform for the first time at the opening concert, sponsored by Principality, at this year’s festival. Three members of the mentoring team took a break from rehearsals to tell us how the preparations are going and about their Eisteddfod experiences over the past few years.

“We’re really looking forward to this year’s Eisteddfod,” says Craig Yates. “I think when everyone’s singing together, it’ll be something the Eisteddfod has never seen before – if we can fit everyone onto the stage! The kids are really looking forward to the concert and sharing

the stage with Only Men Aloud – and especially with Only Boys Aloud!”

“Things are going well,” adds Dan Phillips. “The response has been fantastic. First week rehearsals were all really positive and the kids have all started well.”

So it bodes well for Only Vale Kids Aloud, and with the support and encouragement of Only Men Aloud members, it’s obvious that the children are involved in a project which will inspire and stay with them for years to come, just as the preparations for the opening concert at the Blaenau Gwent and Heads of the Valleys Eisteddfod inspired another group of youngsters two years ago.

Only Boys Aloud were created for the opening concert at that year’s Eisteddfod, and over the past two years, the 160-strong boys choir from across the south Wales Valleys has gone from strength-to-strength. Craig has special memories from that opening concert, “It was an amazing night. They reaction they had that night will live with me forever. We had started

Only Boys Aloud less than three months earlier, and to be on stage with them, seeing the delight in the audience’s reaction, and the massive self-belief in the boys, was something very special.”

“Definitely,” agrees David Mahoney. “It was an amazing reaction from the crowd, and an exciting and inspirational 160 teenage boys. We were all very proud of them.”

And although Only Boys Aloud soon became household names across Wales, with a TV series following their progress, and opportunities for them to support Only Men Aloud in concert, it took a certain ITV-1 series to bring them to the attention of the whole of the UK and beyond!

“I was able to be in Britain’s Got Talent for each round and the boys were amazing,” says Dan.

“It was great to be part of it with them and see how they grew as a group throughout the competition, and how well behaved they all were.”

“It was great,” agrees David. “It was quite a journey. Impressing the judges and the UK as a whole to become



ONLY MEN ALOUD – inspiring the Kids.

Britain’s biggest boy-band!”

“It was hard work,” admits Craig. “But what the boys achieved was something very special indeed. And by sticking to their Welsh roots, they touched so many people around the world through what they did. Amazing.”

As they prepared to return to mentoring the 300-strong Only Vale Kids Aloud choir, Craig tells us how he thinks the young members will benefit from their experience, which will stay with them forever – and they’ll make some great friendships along the way – “It’ll broaden their horizons and help them to grow in ability and self-confidence”.

...And with that, Craig, Dan and David rejoin the schoolchildren busily preparing for the opening concert on the Pavilion stage at the old airfield in Llandow on Friday, August 3 at 8pm.

MIRI’R MAES – WOULDN’T TRADE IT FOR THE WORLD!

THE National Eisteddfod is home to over 300 trade stands and stalls – and to a totally new and amazing shopping experience.

Wales’ foremost festival is a shopper’s Mecca – you’ll find whatever you want, whatever you need – and a few treats you never realised you should have – by wandering through the colourful stalls dotted around the Eisteddfod Maes. It’s a veritable cultural emporium.

You’ll find all kinds of jewellery – most inspired by and made in Wales, paintings by up and coming artists, as well as some well known names.

There’s a huge T-shirt culture at the Eisteddfod, with many companies developing and creating new designs just to sell during the week; and all the best new

Welsh books and books about Wales are released in time for the stands at the Eisteddfod.

And with the Eisteddfod held from August 4-11, you’ll have plenty of time to visit the stalls before deciding on your must have purchase!

But there’s so much more on the Maes than the hundreds of trade stands... Use the Eisteddfod to find out more about Wales and what’s going on across the country.

Wales’ largest and most important organisations will all have stands at the Eisteddfod, with plenty of information about what they do – and how they do it.

So if you’ve wanted to know more about music, art, culture, tourism, business, politics – you name it – come down to the Eisteddfod Maes and have a look round...

The Pink Pavilion is the focal point for all the competing during

the week, so whether you’re into singing, brass bands, presentations or the splendour of the Gorsedd ceremonies, come to the Pavilion to watch some of Wales’ brightest talents competing for the accolade of winning at the National Eisteddfod.

Scattered around the Pavilion are a host of satellite pavilions: A theatre, dance pavilion, literature pavilion, Visual Arts Exhibition, Science and Technology pavilion, Maes D – Learners Pavilion and the ever-popular performance stage, featuring local talent alongside some of the biggest names in the Welsh music scene.

Coupled with this, more relaxing activities such as face painting, storytelling, painting, quizzes, live music – and much more in stands and stalls across the Maes, you’ll just have to come back to see everything you missed on your first visit!

Councillor Eric Hacker, Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, extends a warm welcome to all visitors to the Vale of Glamorgan and wishes the Eisteddfod a successful week.



Maer’r Cyngorydd Eric Hacker, Maer Bro Morgannwg, yn estyn croeso cynnes i bawb sy’n ymweld â Bro Morgannwg ac yn dymuno wythnos lwyddiannus i’r Eisteddfod.

JANE HUTT AM

Labour Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan



Dymuniadau gorau i Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg

Best wishes to the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod
janehutt.co.uk • Tel: 01446 740981
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Regular surgeries held throughout the Vale

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our Eisteddfod visitors...*

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4th - 11th August



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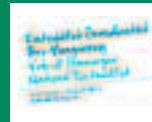
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EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORÇANNWÇ VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD



'So proud to have National Eisteddfod in our backyard'

AS a local resident, born and bred here in the Vale, it is a matter of great personal pride that the National Eisteddfod is coming to the Vale of Glamorgan this summer.

I can recall the first Eisteddfod that I attended back in the 1970s in Pentwyn, Cardiff, and it has remained one of the highlights of my calendar ever since. So the opportunity to attend the show in my own backyard will be an extremely exciting moment for me.

For a week, the Vale of Glamorgan will be the cultural capital of Wales, attracting as many as 150,000 visitors to the area and putting on display all that is special about the area – from the award-winning parks, pubs and restaurants, to the expansive coastline and beautiful beaches.

The whole region will be

proudly on show!

The National Eisteddfod is in many ways the focal point of Welsh life each summer, and it remains as relevant, vital even, today as it was at the time of its revival in the 19th century; with the power to stimulate discussion and to tackle difficult issues, whilst serving as a celebration of Welsh culture.

With plenty of Welsh music, art and other original performances on show at the old Llandow airfield near Cowbridge, there is plenty for the whole family to enjoy throughout the week.

It is also important to point out that you don't need to speak Welsh to enjoy the experience – there will be free translation services on offer and there is always a warm welcome for all comers!

I would like to pay tribute to the foundations put in place by the previous Vale Council in

ensuring that the Eisteddfod could be hosted here, and, of course, to the incredible fundraising work done by the local community.

The preparations have been four years in the making and it is vital that local people and businesses benefit as much as possible from this wonderful opportunity.

Independent research has shown that the local economy can benefit by as much as £6-8 million by playing host to the National Eisteddfod.

The new Vale Council will be hosting the pavilion, welcoming visitors to the show, and I would like to join them, and local residents, in offering a warm welcome to visitors from across Wales.

I know that this will be a truly special, successful and memorable event.

ANDREW RT DAVIES
AM for South Wales Central

Welsh language technology festival to be held on the Maes

WORKING with Hacio'r Iaith and the People's Collection, the Eisteddfod will host the Welsh Technology Festival, a week of sessions likely to attract those interested in technology and the Welsh language, as well as those who are novices in the area.

The sessions will be a useful mix of workshops, drop-in sessions and more structured discussions.

Eisteddfodwyr will be encouraged to blog about their experiences, use technology to practise and improve their Welsh, as well as plenty of opportunities to get some advice and help and try out different technologies during the week.

Euryn Ogwen Williams, this year's Honorary President and Chair of the local Literature Committee has been a pivotal part of the discussions from the start, and has also

been an innovative figure in Welsh language technology for many years. He says, "With thousands of visitors every year, what better place can there be to discuss technology and the language than the Eisteddfod Maes?"

"The Maes itself is a communications hub, and this new 'festival within the festival' is a chance for us to develop this element and provide many more people with the confidence and the necessary skills to use

technology through the medium of Welsh.

"I am delighted with this partnership between the Eisteddfod and Hacio'r Iaith in particular, and I hope that many more people will be blogging and sharing their Eisteddfod experiences on the Maes itself and once they've gone home.

"As well as formal and informal sessions, there's a chance for people to call in to blog at the end of the day to voice their opinion on winners, or share their views on their day on the Maes. This new festival will be an asset to the Eisteddfod.

"The work undertaken by Hacio'r Iaith over the past few years is extremely important to the Welsh language and to new technology through the medium of Welsh."

"I am pleased that we have created this partnership to reflect the important role Hacio'r Iaith, the People's Collection and the Eisteddfod itself has in the promotion of technology and the Welsh language."

Hacio'r Iaith's activities are sponsored by the Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies at Aberystwyth University.

They are held in Cefnfen, between Y Lle Celf and the Literary Pavilion. Cefnfen is sponsored by Imaginet of Cardiff, who have provided web services to the Eisteddfod for many years, and have been an integral part of the technical development of its online presence.

The Vale man who created the Gorsedd ON THE TRAIL OF IOLO MORGANNWG

AS we look forward to an action-packed festival at the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod next week, S4C viewers can get to know the area and its people better in two special programmes produced by the team behind the Channel's arts series, Pethe.

In the documentary *Y Gwir yn erbyn y Byd?: Jim ar drywydd Iolo*, the current Archdruid of Wales, Jim Parc Nest,

sets out on a mission to discover the truth about one of Welsh culture's most colourful characters, Iolo Morganwg, who was born in the area hosting this year's National Eisteddfod.

Iolo was born in 1747 in the village of Pannon in Llanfarnham.

He was a stonemason by trade but is better known for his work as an antiquarian and poet and for being a romantic and fantasist who made up imaginative stories and created fake poets. It was Iolo who created the Gorsedd y Beirdd (Gorsedd of Bards) and ceremonies we still see today at the National Eisteddfod.

In the programme Jim asks why Iolo created the Gorsedd, "a magnificent lie... a legend which has come true."

On his journey he questions Welsh literary expert Professor Meic Stephens about Iolo's background. He discusses Iolo's adventures in London with journalist and broadcaster Huw Edwards as they travel on the London Eye, and Jim also visits Primrose Hill in the city where Iolo held the first ever Gorsedd of the Bards of Britain in 1792.

Back in Wales, Jim meets poet Karen Owen on the summit of Moel Famau to chat about Iolo's connections with the Vale of Clwyd, and his obvious prejudice against North Walian poets. He regarded them as barbarians, totally different to those he described as the sophisticated poets of Glamorgan!

Jim ends his journey on Bryn Owain, above this year's Eisteddfod field – the Maes – in the company of Professor Geraint Jenkins, who is regarded as one of our most eminent experts on Iolo Morganwg.

It was on this hill that the first ever meeting of the Gorsedd of Bards was held in Wales.

In another special edition of arts series *Pethe* on Wednesday night, we'll explore around the area hosting the 2012 Eisteddfod and meet some of its inhabitants.

Nia Roberts visits Islwyn Jones, who composed the poem of welcome – *cywydd croeso* – for the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod; and meets two talented brothers, Iolo and Donal Whelan, at their home in St Hilary.

Iolo is a highly-regarded percussionist

who gives drumming lessons at the Vale Drum Studio. Donal is a music mastering engineer, and both brothers are members of the band Jamie Smith's Mabon.

The programme will also take a look at the Adain Avion project, a mobile art space created from the fuselage of a DC-9 aeroplane as part of the London Festival 2012.

Adain Avion has been travelling around Wales during the summer, working with local people along the way, to create performances, art works, workshops

and events at each location on the journey, before landing on the Eisteddfod Maes at Llandow, which is particularly suitable as it used to be an airfield.

Each performance and event has been filmed and stored in the aeroplane's 'black box', and will be shown to the thousands of visitors who'll be coming to the Eisteddfod.


Pethe: Y Gwir yn erbyn y Byd?: Jim ar drywydd Iolo; Wednesday, August 1, 9.30pm, S4C.

Pethe: Thursday, August 2, 9.30pm, S4C, (English subtitles).

A very special Welsh phrase of the week!

THIS week's Welsh phrase of the week is most definitely one that catches the moment:

Croeso i Fro Morgannwg (Croeso ee Vro Morgannwg) which means 'Welcome to the Vale of Glamorgan'.



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post@bromorgannwg.org.uk
www.yfro.org.uk
Pennaeth/Headteacher: Dr Dylan E Jones

'EISTEDDFOD DREAM IS NOW A REALITY'

I AM delighted to welcome the Welsh National Eisteddfod to the Vale of Glamorgan once again; it has been a long time since it last visited the Vale – when it came to Barry in 1968.

The Eisteddfod has come a long way since then, and is now the largest event in Wales and the second largest outside broadcast of the BBC in the UK.

It was January 2008 when I welcomed the Chief Executive of the Eisteddfod, as we set out to find a venue in the Vale to stage the 2012 event.

My mind was firmly set on bringing the Eisteddfod to the heart of the rural Vale at Llandow, and thanks to all the land owners and much work by the organisers, my dream has come true, when the Eisteddfod opens at Llandow on August 4.

Many people think that the Eisteddfod is just an event for Welsh speakers – don't you believe it!

The event brings together the whole of Wales to celebrate the art

and culture of our nation.

There is something for everyone to enjoy at the Eisteddfod and I hope the residents throughout the Vale of Glamorgan, and south Wales, take the opportunity to join all those visitors from all over Wales to celebrate a wonderful week of events on our doorstep.

Over the past year, many fundraising events have been held to support the Eisteddfod coming to Llandow and my grateful thanks to everyone who has supported them.

We are now reaching the climax of all your efforts and I know the excitement is growing amongst all those who have contributed so much.

I wish everyone a very enjoyable week and I hope that bringing the Eisteddfod to Llandow will benefit all those businesses in the area and that our visitors will return in the future.

Let us welcome everyone and make their stay one to remember, *Croeso i Bro Morgannwg!*

COUN GWYN JOHN
Cabinet member for Leisure, Arts and Culture,
Vale of Glamorgan Council

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EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORÇANNWÇ VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

Mystery of the replica chair...

WHEN R Bryn Williams stood on his feet in a packed Pavilion on Thursday afternoon at the Barry

National Eisteddfod in 1968, little did he know that he would receive two chairs, as prizes for his success that year. He received the

Eisteddfod Chair during the ceremony, but he also received a small replica chair, and even today, the story behind this miniature version remains a mystery to the family.

His grandson, Gwydion Griffiths, says: "It would be very interesting to discover some of the replica chair's history. Why was it produced, and is my grandfather the only person to have received two chairs at the same Eisteddfod for the same award-winning work?"

"The story has fascinated me for years, and with the Eisteddfod held in the Vale for the first time since 1968 this year, we are keen to find out more about the history of the little replica chair.

"My daughter loves the chair. The Eisteddfod Chair is in my uncle's house in north Wales, and I think it is lovely that two branches of the family are able to celebrate my grandfather's success."

The replica chair was in the care of R Bryn Williams' daughter, Nan Griffiths, for many

years, and she still has the plaque presented to her father with the replica. She says: "It's obvious that the chair was a gift from the Forestry Commission, although I can't remember why he received such a gift.

"It is a perfect replica of the Eisteddfod Chair, and the model was created by Glyn Rees from Dinas Mawddwy, who, if I remember rightly, was well known for his oak furniture during this period. He also exhibited and sold his work at the Eisteddfod.

"We've spent the past few years trying to discover the history, so if anyone can help us, we'd be very grateful for information."

1968 was the second time R Bryn Williams had won the National Eisteddfod Chair. He won in 1964 for his poem, 'Patagonia', a region which became synonymous with his name over the years.

Although known as a poet, writer and dramatist, his most famous works were his historical volumes, *Cymry Patagonia* (1942) and *Y Wladfa* (1962) – two

books which did much to educate the people of Wales about Patagonia.

He was brought up in Patagonia after his parents emigrated when he was seven.

He remained there until the age of 21, when he returned to Wales to study at Bangor University and at the College of Divinity in Aberystwyth.

He was a minister with the Welsh Presbyterian Church for 20 years before joining the staff of the Celtic department at the National Library of Wales.

R Bryn Williams served as Archdruid from 1973-1976, a period which his grandson vaguely remembers, and says: "I remember seeing my grandfather on the Pavilion stage.

"I couldn't understand why he was dressed so grandly. And I remember starting to call out, 'Taid, Taid!' once.

"We were all very proud of him as Archdruid and as a double winner of the Eisteddfod Chair – as

well as the winner who received a miniature chair as well.

"We'd love to find out the story behind this Chair and hope someone will be able to help."

If anyone has any information about the replica chair received by R Bryn Williams at the Eisteddfod in Barry in 1968, please send an email to: gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk.



ABOVE: Two-year-old Miri Gruffydd and her father Gwydion Gruffydd, with the miniature chair presented to her great grandfather, R Bryn Williams, following his success in the 1968 Eisteddfod.

Neidiwch ymlaen!

Gwnewch hi'n haws teithio i'r Eisteddfod. Ffoniwch neu glidwch heddiw!

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- Yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol eleni, bydd y Brifysgol Agored yng Nghymru yn cynnig gweithgareddau sy'n gysylltiedig â rhaglen The Story of Wales.

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- At the National Eisteddfod this summer, The Open University in Wales is featuring activities related to The Story of Wales programme.



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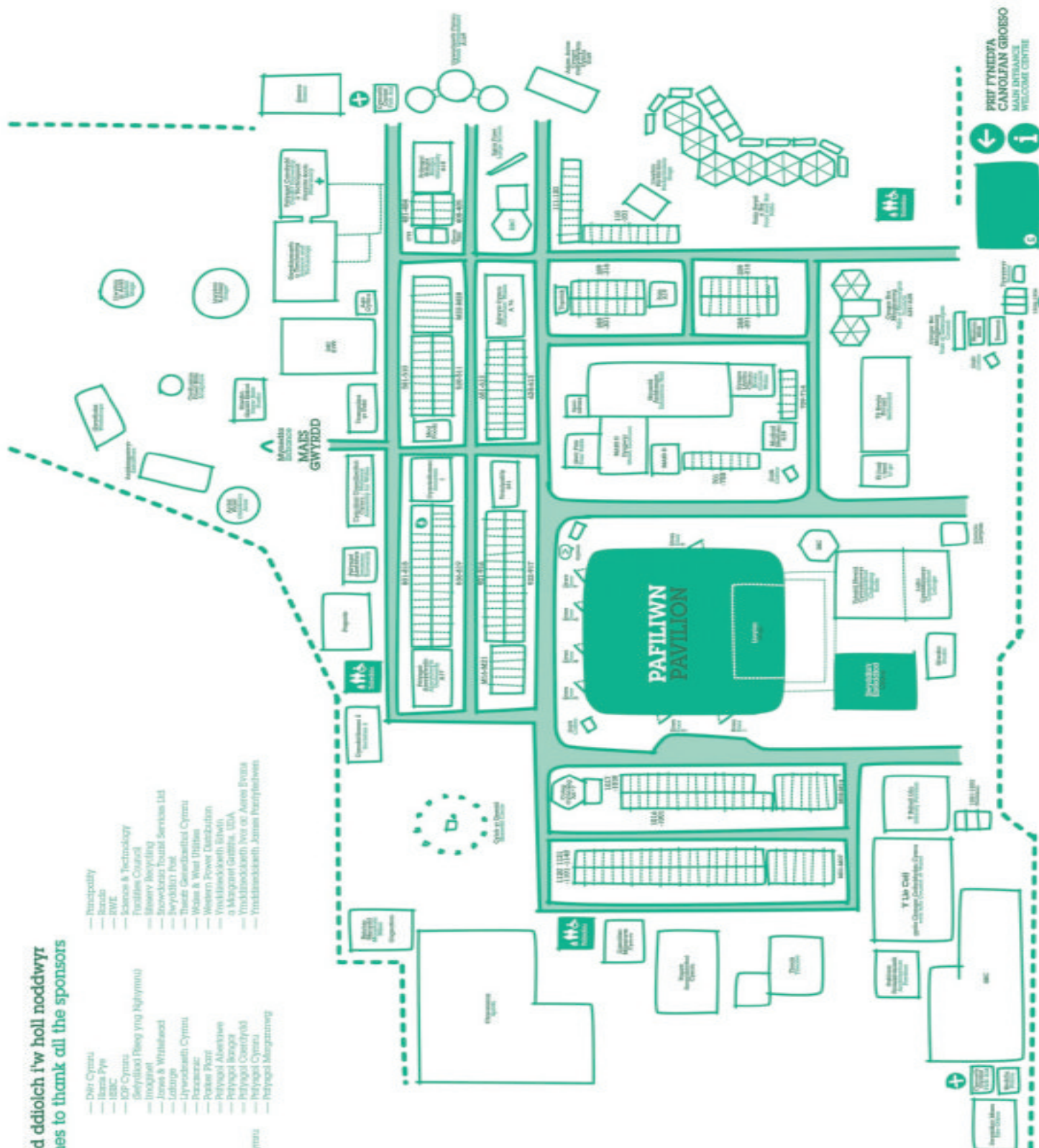


EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORGANNWG
VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD



Dymuna'r Eisteddfod ddiolech i'w holl noddwyr
The Eisteddfod wishes to thank all the sponsors

- [illegible]



Hydroxide / hydrogen chloride

 Gwastwrddi Cylbithu i'm ddiam
Ffôn Translation Service

Greyhound with pin grows with hybrid is wrong on 21/07/12
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Dewch i babel y cyngor ar y Maes er mwyn cael cip ar y gweithgareddau sydd gennym i'w cynnig.
 Os ydych yn ymweld â'r Fro ac am adael y Maes am ychydig, y mae hen ddigon i'w weld...

Holwch yn ein pabell neu ewch i'n gwefan

Ask at our pavilion or visit our website

Come and visit the council's marquee on the Maes and check out our activity programme. If you're visiting the Vale, there's plenty to see if you would like to leave the Maes behind for a while...



The Coast/Yr Arfordir



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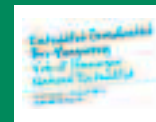
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The GEM
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EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORÇANNWÇ VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD



ARLWY'R NOS/ EVENING ACTIVITIES

MAE digonedd i'w wneud ar Faes yr Eisteddfod o fore gwyn tan nos, ac eleni, am y tro cyntaf, mae gweithgareddau'r hwyr wedi'u canoli ar y Maes.

Mae'r Eisteddfod yn trefnu nifer o gyngherddau bob blwyddyn a chynhelir y rhain yn y Pafiliwn ar y Maes. Gellir prynu tocynnau ar gyfer y cyngherddau naill ai drwy fynd i'r wefan:

www.eisteddfod.org.uk, ffônio'r linell docynnau, 0845 4090 800, neu drwy fynd i'r swyddfa docynnau yn y brif fynedfa'n ystod yr wythnos ei hun. Mae'r cyngherddau i gyd yn cynhyrwyd am 80'gloch.

Nos Wener Awst 3, mae Only Men Aloud, Only Boys Aloud, Only Vale Kids Aloud ac Academi Only Boys Aloud y Principality yn agor yr Eisteddfod gyda chyngherdd arbennig, sy'n sicrhau roi gweir i unrhyw un yn y Pafiliwn. Noddir y noson gan Gymdeithas Adeiladu'r Principality.

Nos Sadwrn, cawn gyfle i fwynhau Premier Prydeinig gwaith diweddaraf y cyfansoddwr Karl Jenkins, Beirdd Cymru, gyda'r cyfansoddwr ei hun yn arwain, a Rebecca Evans, Dennis O'Neill a Chôr yr Eisteddfod. Bydd y cyngherdd hefyd yn cynnwys nifer o ffe-frynau clasirol, gan gynnwys Sadoc W'r Duw, Handel, Mae Hiraeth yn y Môr gan

Dilys Elwyn Edwards a Nessun Dorma (Turandot) gan Puccini, gydag Alwyn Humphreys yn arwain. Noddir y noson gan Swyddfa'r Post.

Nos Sul bydd cyfle i fwynhau canu cymleiddfaol gyda Chymnaid'r Eisteddfod, dan arweinyddiaeth Euros Rhys Evans, a chyda Robert Nicholls ar yr organ. Cefnogir y noson gan Eglwys Annibynnol Gymraeg Radnor Walk, Chelsea, Llundain.

Bydd nos Lun yn noddir a hanner wrth i Dafydd Iwan ddathlu hanner can mlynedd o ddiddanu cynulleidfaoedd ar hyd a lled Cymru. Dewch i fwynhau Degawdau Dafydd Iwan, pan fydd y dyn ei hun yn ymuno gyda rhai o'i hen gyfoedion a rhai o artistiaid ifanc disgleiriad Cymru ac nosen o ddathlu ac edrych yn ôl dros yr hanner canrif ddiwethaf, fel rhan o weithgareddau Maes C. Noddir y noson gan Ymddiriedolaeth Ivor ac Aeres Evans.

Os mai chwerrin a mwynhau sy'n mynd â'ch bryd, byddwch wrth eich boddau yn y Pafiliwn nos Fawrth, pan gynhelir y Gala Gomed Gymraeg fwyaf erioed. Dyma'r tro cyntaf i'r Eisteddfod fentro i fyd comedi, a chyda rhai o ddigrifwyr blaenaf Cymru, gan gynnwys Tudur Owen, Ifan Tregaron, Gary Slaymaker a Dewi Pws, yn ymddangos ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn, dyma noson sy'n mynd i aros yn y cof am amser maith. Noddir y noson gan Gronfa Gari, ac mae'n

rhan o weithgareddau Maes C.

Bydd cyngherddau'r wythnos yn cloi nos Iau pan gawn orig yng nghwmni'r amryddawn Caryl Parry Jones - a gallwn gadarnhau y bydd rhai o'i chymeriadau enwocaf hefyd yn ymddangos yn y cyngherdd. Mae Caryl yn enwog fel darlledwraig, performwraig ac fel cerddor, felly dewch i fwynhau noson arbennig iawn yn y Pafiliwn nos Iau, fel rhan o weithgareddau Maes C.

Y Lwylfan Perfformio fydd lleoliad rhai o weithgareddau Maes B a Maes C eleni. Cynhelir Maes B yno ddechrau'r wythnos, cyn symud i lwyfan agored ar y Maes Ieuencid o nos Fercher ymlaen, felly y Maes yw'r lle i ddod ar gyfer Brwydr y Bandiau nos Lun - er y bydd cyfle i'r band buddugol berfformio ar lwyfan Maes B yn y Maes Ieuencid ar y nos Sadwrn olaf fel rhan o'r wob.

Adeiladau amrywiol y Maes yw cartref nifer o weithgareddau Maes C eleni. Am nifer o flynyddoedd mae'r Maes wedi dod yn fwyfwy poblogaidd gyda'r nos gyda nifer fawr yn dewis aros yn y patio bwyd ymhell ar ôl i'r cystadlu offren. Felly eleni, mae'r Eisteddfod wedi trefnu nifer o weithgareddau ar hyd a lled y Maes i fynd â'ch bryd.

Ddiwedd brynhawn Sul, dewch â'r plantos i'r Babell Llen i fwynhau Oli Odl, Dona Direidi a rhai o ffrindiau Cyw, S4C, cyn mynd draw at y Lwylfan Perfformio lle fydd Elin Fflur yn barod i ddiddanu'r teulu cyfan.

Ymysg y gweithgareddau Maes C eraill ar y Maes bydd y Stomp enwog nos Wener, a gynhelir yn y Babell Llen eleni, a noson gyda Steve Eaves a Llewelyn yn y Theatr, nos Iau am 9o'gloch. Mae rhestr llawn o'r gweithgareddau i gyd ar dudalennau eraill yr app hwn, felly treuliwch ychydig o

amser yn pori drwy'r amserlenni, gan gynnwys nio'ch wythnos, ac yna dewch draw i Landw i fwynhau Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg. Chewch chi mo'ch siomi!

THERE'S plenty to do on the Eisteddfod Maes from morning till night, and this time, for the first time, most of the evening activities are located on the Maes itself.

The Eisteddfod organises a number of concerts every year, and these are held in the Pavilion on the Maes.

Tickets can be bought online, by ringing the ticketline: 0845 4090 800, or by going to the ticket office in the main entrance during the week itself. All the concerts start at 8pm.

On Friday August 3, Only Men Aloud, Only Boys Aloud and The Principality Only Boys Aloud Academy open proceedings, with a special evening, which is sure to be a great success. The evening is sponsored by the Principality Building Society.

On Saturday evening, enjoy the UK premiere of Karl Jenkins' latest work, *Bards of Wales*, with the composer himself conducting Rebecca Evans, Dennis O'Neill and the Eisteddfod Choir.

The concert also includes a number of classical favourites, including 'Zadok the Priest' (Handel), 'Mae Hiraeth yn y Môr' (Dilys Elwyn Edwards) and 'Nessun Dorma' (Turandot) by Puccini, with Alwyn Humphreys conducting. The evening is sponsored by The Post Office.

On Sunday, come to the Pavilion to enjoy an evening of congregational singing, with the Eisteddfod Cymania, Euros Rhys Evans con-

ducting and Robert Nicholls on the organ. The evening is supported by the Radnor Walk Welsh Congregational Church, Chelsea, London.

Monday evening will be a night to remember as Dafydd Iwan celebrates 50 years entertaining audiences across Wales and beyond. Come and enjoy Dafydd Iwan's Decades, when the man himself will be joined by a wide range of performers from throughout Dafydd's long career.

This evening is part of Maes C activities on the Maes, and is sponsored by the Ivor and Aeres Evans Trust.

If you enjoy comedy, the Pavilion is the place to be on Tuesday evening as the Eisteddfod hosts its first ever Comedy Gala - which is also the largest ever Welsh language comedy event.

Comedians including Tudur Owen, Ifan Tregaron, Gary Slaymaker and Dewi Pws will appear on the Pavilion stage, for an evening which is sure to entertain everyone.

The evening is sponsored by Cronfa Gary, and is part of Maes C's activities on the Maes. This evening is suitable for those over 14 years.

The Eisteddfod concert programme draws to a close on Thursday when we enjoy an evening with Caryl Parry Jones - and we can confirm that some of her most famous characters will also appear in this one-off show, created especially for this year's Eisteddfod.

Caryl is well-known as a broadcaster, performer and musician, and she'll be combining all three skills for a memorable evening, as part of the Maes C activities.

The Performance Stage plays host to some of the Maes B and Maes C activities this year. Maes C is held on the Maes at the start of the week before moving to an open stage in the Youth Village from the Wednesday evening onwards.

Come to the Maes to enjoy the Battle of the Bands competition on Monday evening, and the winning band will have a chance to perform on the open stage at the Youth Village on the Saturday evening as part of their prize.

Maes C is held at a number of the Eisteddfod's own pavilions on the Maes this

year. For many years, the Maes has become increasingly popular in the evening, long after the competing has drawn to a close.

So this year, the Eisteddfod has organised a number of activities on the Maes to appeal to Eisteddfodwyr of all ages.

At the end of Sunday afternoon, bring your little ones to Y Babell Llen to enjoy Oli Odl, Dona Direidi and some of Cyw's friends, before going over to the Performance Stage to enjoy Elin Fflur, ready to entertain the whole family.

Amongst the other Maes C activities on the Maes are the famous Stomp on Friday evening, held in Y Babell Llen, and an evening with Steve Eaves and Llewelyn in the Theatre on Thursday at 9pm.

A full list of activities can be found on the website, so why not spend some time browsing through the list and planning your week at the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod? You won't be disappointed.

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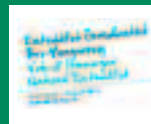
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LOCAL FUNDRAISERS WITHIN REACH OF EISTEDDFOD TARGET



Eisteddfod organiser Hywel Wyn Edwards has heaped praise on the Vale Eisteddfod Committee for all their hard work fundraising for the festival over the past two years. (See below, right)

EISTEDDFOD WORKING WITH CERN ON PARTICLE EXHIBITION

THE main science and technology exhibition at this year's National Eisteddfod is entitled: 'Discovering Particles' – an apt theme for the festival, given the recent exciting announcements in Geneva.

The Eisteddfod's exhibition has been put together in partnership with CERN and Swansea University's physics department.

The aim of the exhibition is to explain what scientists are trying to discover in Switzerland, and the role Welsh scientists have had in the process

over the past few years. One of the main attractions will be a huge model of the particle accelerator in the centre of the Science Pavilion – but there's no need to worry as it's not a real accelerator, and the Maes is unlikely to be sucked into a huge black hole!

The Eisteddfod's science officer, Robyn Wheldon-Williams, said: "Many of us are aware of the ground-breaking experiments in Geneva, but few completely understand what scientists are trying to discover and the question they're trying to answer."

"It's an exciting time in Geneva at the moment, with this week's announcement

that they've almost certainly discovered the missing particle, the Higgs Boson."

The Higgs Boson, sometimes referred to as the "God particle", lends mass to matter and holds the universe together. The discovery fills gaps in the theory that explains how particles, forces and interactions combine to shape the Universe.

The Eisteddfod has been working closely with CERN over the past few months, and is grateful to Dr Rhodri Jones for his work. He will present the main science lecture at this year's festival – 'The LHC – the world's most powerful accelerator'.

It discusses the scientific and technical challenges faced in building the collider, and presents the latest results and what it means for us.

Elfed Roberts, Eisteddfod chief executive, added: "The Science and

Technology Pavilion is one of the most popular places on the Maes, and the fact that organisations like CERN are supporting us, shows our ability to attract international standard exhibitions, working with partners around the world."

There will be a number of interactive activities in the Pavilion for people of all ages, from modelling collisions to seeing a real cosmic ray.

The National Eisteddfod is very grateful to the STFC (Science and Technology Facilities Council) for sponsoring the project.

A wide range of other activities are taking place in the Science and Technology Pavilion during the week, including events organised by Panasonic, promoting the fuel cell in the home, outlining the co-operation between Japan and Wales, and

the company's latest inventions.

This part of the exhibition also includes the history of Welshman, Sir William Grove, the father of the fuel cell, and his experiments.

Wales & West Utilities will host an exhibition to highlight their campaign on the dangers of carbon dioxide gas, and leaflets promoting the campaign will be distributed to everyone staying on the caravan site and in the youth village, outlining the dangers of this deadly gas.

Lafarge, owners of the cement works in Aberthaw, who celebrate their 100th anniversary this year, will run events about the cement industry and will host a 3D cinema during the week.

A full list of Science and Technology activities at this year's Eisteddfod is available on the website: www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

A big thanks!

AN important part of the visit of any Eisteddfod is the work of the local appeal committees – raising money and awareness of the Eisteddfod.

It's wonderful to be able to confirm that they are within touching distance of reaching the challenging target of £300,000 the Vale was given. With activities still to be held, the committee is confident that this figure will be met.

Eisteddfod organiser, Hywel Wyn Edwards, said: "It's difficult to believe that the Eisteddfod is almost upon us again this year. Two years of work in

the Vale of Glamorgan is about to reach its climax.

"The welcome we've received from local people and from the team of volunteers has been wonderful, and the work they've done raising awareness and funds is excellent.

"With days to go, I think it's timely that we pay tribute to them all for their work, their commitment, and most of all for their enthusiasm during a difficult economic period.

"We are extremely grateful for everything you've achieved over the past two years.

"Dioch yn fawr!"

Artistic view

VALE of Glamorgan Artists (www.voga.org.uk) will be displaying their artistic interpretations of Welsh poet Menna Elfyn's 'The Burning Multitude' at the Eisteddfod, from August 4-11 (stand number N14 in the Exhibition Hall, Neuadd Arddangos).

The works can then be seen at the Travellers' Gallery, run by Mind in the Vale, from Monday August 14-Friday September 6, mornings only, 7.30am-12.30pm.

More of VoGA's work may also be seen in the Barry Arts Festival, Windsor Road Church, Barry, July 27-August 5, 10am-4pm (free admission).



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O'NEILL TO PERFORM BRITISH PREMIER OF WORK

One of the greatest activities the Eisteddfod brings to any area is the formation of the Eisteddfod Choir, with an opportunity to perform in front of over 2,000 people in the Eisteddfod

pavilion with a full concert orchestra and world class soloists. This year's Eisteddfod Choir concert promises to be a night to remember as during the second half of the concert they will perform the British Premiere of Karl Jenkins' new work: The Bards of Wales with

soloists Dennis O'Neill and Rebecca Evans and Karl Jenkins himself conducting the work.

His latest work 'The Bards of Wales' was premiered in Hungary in June 2011. The piece forges an unexpected link between Hungary and Wales: The Hungarian poet János Arany (1817-82) was asked to write a poem in praise of the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph but, as the Austrian overlords had just suppressed the 1848 Hungarian Revolution, the poet did the opposite. To satisfy the state censor, the poem was written in terms of Welsh history rather than Hungarian, telling how Edward I of England executed Welsh bards for failing to sing his praises at a banquet in Montgomery Castle in 1277.

The British premier of the work at the Eisteddfod will feature the Welsh language version of the work by poet Twm Morys.

Performing on the night will be the renowned tenor, Dennis O'Neill and we caught up with him as he prepares for his appearance at the Eisteddfod. "I am looking forward to appearing at the Eisteddfod" He said. "Karl Jenkins and I were schoolboys together at Gwernon Grammar School and played in the orchestra together. As you would expect from Karl, the Bards of Wales in an original and exciting score. It's interesting too that the Hungarian text is apparently known to every schoolchild in that country, making an amazing link with Wales".

Dennis also has fond memories at performing

at the last Eisteddfod to be held in the Vale, when the Eisteddfod visited Barry in 1968. He competed, and was successful in the 18 - 25 age group tenor competition. "Winning this competition ended my competitive stage and began my ambition to become a professional singer"

Although the highlight of the concert will be the British premier of the Bards of Wales the first half will feature popular classics carefully chosen by the Choir and soloists. Dennis explained "For the first half of the concert I have decided to stick to the pieces that I have sung for many years and represent the most popular aspect of my work - 'Arafu Don' is definitely the most popular Welsh song for tenor and 'Nessun Dorma' is the

most popular aria for an Italianate tenor. I have chosen the repertoire that has taken me around the world".

It's been a busy year for the singer with most of the year taken with establishing the Wales International Academy of Voice with the University of Wales of which he is Director and immediately after the Eisteddfod he will leave for masterclasses and recitals in Australia and New Zealand.

Before that however he will once again take to the stage in the 2,000 seater Eisteddfod Pavilion. Tickets are currently for sale and priced at £19 - £28 from the Eisteddfod ticket Office : 0845 40 90 400 or www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

ONLY VALE KIDS ALoud PREPARE FOR EISTEDDFOD

THREE hundred young voices from the Vale of Glamorgan will unite for the National Eisteddfod Opening Concert in Llandow this August. In a special documentary on S4C, we'll see how the ambitious project was brought together under the watchful eye of master conductor Tim Rhys-Evans.

Wyn Davies will join Tim and members of Only Men Aloud and Only Boys Aloud as they prepare the young singers in schools across the county. S4C viewers will also be given front-row seats as the young

choir take their bow on the National Eisteddfod stage in their first public performance, alongside Tim's other choirs, Only Men Aloud and Only Boys Aloud.

Only Kids Aloud o'r Fro is to be broadcast on Thursday, 2 August with the Eisteddfod's Opening Concert live the following evening (Friday, 3 August).

"We wanted to create a choir of local school-children for this year's opening ceremony that would give them a chance to experience the thrill of performing on a world-class stage in their local area," explains Tim Rhys-Evans. "There's no grander stage in Wales than that of the National Eisteddfod. Earlier this year, we issued a rallying call to youngsters in

the Vale of Glamorgan and the response has been phenomenal with over 300 children now taking part in this project."

A large number of the performers come from English-speaking homes. This project aims to raise the awareness of the Welsh language as well as traditional choral singing.

"The National Eisteddfod has a strong tradition of nurturing and developing performers. Both Only Men Aloud and Only Boys Aloud have performed on the Pavilion stage and we're all excited to be returning when the Eisteddfod arrives in the Vale of Glamorgan."

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Maes D - centre for learning Welsh

If you're learning Welsh, or thinking about learning, there will be a warm welcome for you at Maes D, the learners' pavilion.

A variety of activities suitable for learners will be held throughout the week, including zumba in Welsh, daily workshops run by Cardiff and Vale College, musical performances, learn the national anthem with Courtenay Hamilton and much more.

Activities for children and families will also be held at Maes D. Why not come and see one of Kariad the Clown's performances, take part in a circus workshop or enjoy a storytelling session with Peppa Pinc organised by Rily book publishers. The singer Wynne Evans will officially open Maes D at 10.30am on Saturday, August 4.

Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre will hold daily Welsh language taster sessions at Maes D for beginners.

The Eisteddfod is the perfect time to start learning Welsh as there are so many opportunities to practice! You can also pick up information at Maes D about learning Welsh in your local area.

Of course, there are people learning Welsh all over the world and we will celebrate this on Tuesday, August

7. During the day there will be presentations on the online provision for learners and how social groups outside of Wales can be set up and maintained. You can also enjoy a Japanese tea ceremony, tango dancing and take part in a Skype conversation with learners from across the world.

If you haven't been to the Eisteddfod before, why not come to the 'Your first visit to the Eisteddfod? Where to go, what to see?' session on the first Saturday or Monday, August 6.

Translation equipment will be provided at both these sessions. To find out the times and dates of all the activities at Maes D, visit: www.eisteddfod.org.uk, and look under Eisteddfod 2012, 'Maes activities'.

The highlight of the week for learners will be to find out who has been crowned Welsh Learner of the Year 2012 on Wednesday August 8.

Tickets for the evening, held at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, will be for sale at: www.eisteddfod.org.uk until August 1. Come and hear more about the four finalists, enjoy light entertainment and a delicious three course meal.

We look forward to welcoming you at Maes D!

Creating the chair



ABOVE: This year's Eisteddfod chair was crafted by Andrew Lane, with the inscription by Rupert King.

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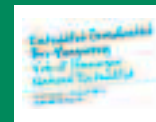
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Dafydd Iwan's decades

THIS year's Eisteddfod is a milestone for one of Wales' most famous performers, as the evergreen Dafydd Iwan celebrates half a century of entertaining audiences across the whole of Wales –

and beyond.

It's certain that Eisteddfodwyr of all ages will want to share this occasion with one of Wales' best-loved entertainers, and enjoy a special show as part of this year's Maes C activities, Dafydd Iwan's Decades – the highlight of this year's celebrations.

We caught up with Dafydd himself to look back over the decades and look forward to a special evening in the Pavilion in less than a month.

He said: "The evening is an opportunity to look back at 50 years of performing, with old friends and young artists, and I'm sure there'll be a few smiles and a few tears along the way during the show, but the aim is to create an evening to remember.

"Song wise, there may be a new twist on some old favourites, and I'm delighted that I'll be joined by Ar Log, Heather Jones a'i Ffrindiau, Hefin Elis, Miriam and Greta Isaac, Adran Heol-y-March, the faithful old band, and Edward himself, on stage. It'll be Gwyn Llewelyn's job to try and keep us all under control!"

Half a century has passed since Dafydd picked up his guitar and started performing at a concert in Fishguard High School in the summer of 1962, and since then, his catchy songs have grasped the imagination of the people of Wales.

He says: "Every song has some kind of story or message, or what's the point? In the 1960s,



ABOVE: Dafydd Iwan's Decades will look back over the 50 years he has been performing at the National Eisteddfod.

lots of Wales' young people had very clear aspirations, and it's natural that songs from the period reflect this. We weren't preaching, or even protesting really, we were merely expressing our feelings and putting our hopes of living our lives fully through Welsh and living freely as Welsh people, into words."

And the Eisteddfod was an integral part of this urge to live their lives through Welsh from the beginning of Dafydd's career, and he has many happy memories of attending the festival, both as an entertainer and as a performer – he has performed at every Eisteddfod since 1967!

"I remember cycling all the way from Llanuwchllyn to Plaid Cymru's summer school in Llangefni in 1957 on my brand new racing bike, and then on to the Eisteddfod," he continued. "Two years later, when the Eisteddfod came to Caernarfon in 1959, my brother Arthur and I shared a tent on

land at Gwernafalau Farm in Llandwrog. Little did I realise at the time that Sain would open its first studio on that very farm 15 years later.

"I have very fond memories of the three Eisteddfods in Bala – '67, '97 and 2009, a one-man show in Theatr y Gegin in Cricieth in 1975, the fierce protests in Flint in 1969, the mud and the rain in Fishguard in '86, and the 'Peintio'r Byd yn Wyrdd' (Painting the world green) show in Llanybyddie, during the Ammanford Eisteddfod in 1970.

This year he's appearing in Maes D at 4.30pm on Thursday, and he's then part of the Maes C activities on the Maes on Saturday at 6.30pm on the Performance Stage.

Dafydd Iwan's Decades is held on August 6 at the Eisteddfod Pavilion. Tickets are available online: www.eisteddfod.org.uk, or by calling 0845 4090 800.

'Best of Barry' welcome for the Eisteddfod

A SELL-OUT crowd of more than 300 enjoyed a memorable night in Barry Memorial Hall last Friday, when 'The Best of Barry' took to the stage as the last fundraiser in Barry to raise money for the National Eisteddfod, which starts in Llandow in a week's time.

The evening was presented by Connie Fisher, who has just finished a six-month tour of the musical *Wonderful Town*.

Connie is a National Eisteddfod winner herself, and she was more than happy to take the evening off from filming duties on *Casualty* to host the event.

Johnny Tudor, who played Marco in Gavin & Stacey, co-hosted and dazzled on stage as he entertained the audience in his own unique way by singing, dancing and storytelling.

Both Connie and Johnny have learnt Welsh themselves and they were keen to encourage others who do not speak Welsh, to attend the Eisteddfod.

As Connie said: "Don't think that the Eisteddfod is boring and for people who wear Welsh costumes and eat leeks!"

Also present was Melanie Walters, or 'Gwen' from Gavin and Stacey. Melanie helped out with the auction and raffle, which were supported by local businesses and wellwishers, and the organisers are very grateful for their generosity.



CONNIE FISHER

erosity.

The Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band were in fine form as they kicked off the proceedings with 'Men of Harlech', and it was fitting that Barry Choral Society – which was established for the National Eisteddfod of 1968 – was part of the guest line-up, as well.

Local home-grown talent were Barry-born and bred singers – Aled Sion Williams, Beth Zienna Williams, Ifan Gwilym Jones and Lisa Davies. They all gave some impressive performances and are certainly names to look out for in the future.

The Y Dance Crews from the YMCA displayed some fabulous

street dancing and Superstars in the Making displayed some great musical theatre.

As it was the last day of term, it was surprising that the youngsters in these line-ups had any energy left!

Euros Rhys was the accompanist for the evening and he has had a busy 12 months co-directing the Eisteddfod Choir. But you will hear a lot about him during the Eisteddfod week as he is the guest conductor for the Gymanfa Ganu on Sunday, August 5.

The organisers are hoping that the people of Barry will go over to Llandow in August and see for themselves that the Eisteddfod is truly an event which welcomes everybody.

And if you are worried about not speaking the language – be sure to ask for the translation service.

The Eisteddfod is a celebration of Welsh culture and heritage and we are sure that everybody in the town will give the people of Wales a warm 'Best of Barry' welcome in August.

ALUN HUGHES

The Stockton family gear up for busy week!



ABOVE: Macsen, Lleucu and Caleb Stockton from Penarth.

ONE local family in particular is gearing up for a busy Eisteddfod week!

The Stockton family from Penarth has been eagerly awaiting the start, since daughter Lleucu (7), a pupil at Ysgol Pen y Garth, Penarth was selected to be one of the flower dancers who will perform at the Crowning and Chairing ceremonies on Monday and Friday of Eisteddfod week.

Lleucu will also be performing with the school choir during the Daniel Owen ceremony on Tuesday and will also be taking part in a poetry reading with local poet, Caryl Parry Jones, in the literature pavilion on Sunday.

Lleucu said: "After over a year of rehearsing for the flower dance, I'm really excited at the prospect of performing it in the main pavilion.

"My parents, brothers, grandparents and cousins, will all be in the audience to support me – and I can't wait!"

"I'm also looking forward to exploring the 'Maes' and top of my

list will be the 'Flash Bang show' and circus workshops in the Science Pavilion, drama workshops in the Theatre Cafe, craft activities around the Maes and, if I get time, I'm looking forward to seeing Elin Fflur perform."

Brother Macsen (7), meanwhile will take to the Literature pavilion stage on Saturday, to perform with other local schoolchildren in a special concert organised by Menter y Fro.

Among Macsen's festival highlights will be the numerous activities for children in the Science Pavilion, and the chance to get to meet some of his favourite television characters.

Mother Mared has been a pivotal member of the Penarth Appeal Committee who in the space of 18 months have raised thousands of pounds in the town.

Successful events have included a vintage garden party, showing of the film *Twin Town*, concert with Max Boyce, Frock swap.

No doubt the family will be looking forward to a well-deserved rest at the end of the week!

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Maes B will create a 'great atmosphere'

YR ODS sy'n **arwain lein-yp nos Sadwrn** **Maes B** eleni, gan **gloi pedair noson o gigs a fydd yn wahanol iawn i'r arfer yn Eisteddfod Bro Morgannwg ym mis Awst.**

Yn ôl y Trefnydd, Guto Brychan: "Eleni, bydd Maes B yn cael ei gynnal ar lwyfan agored yn y maes ieuencid, gan ychwanegu at yr ymdeimlad o wyl i greu awyrgylch arbennig."

"Mae'r ymateb i'r syniad hwn wedi bod yn arbennig o bositif, a llawer o sôn ar wefnau fel Twitter dros y misoedd diwethaf, ers cyhoeddi'r syniad gwreiddiol."

"Rydian ni wedi bod yn awyddus i arbrofi gyda llwyfan agored ers

peth amser, ac mae lleoliad yr Eisteddfod eleni'n gwedd'u berffaiith i hyn, felly, o nos Fercher ymlaen, bydd Maes B yn digwydd ar y maes ieuencid, sy'n agos iawn at Faes yr Eisteddfod ei hun. Bydd dim angen i wersyllwyr orfod meddwl am ddal bws neu gyrraedd yn ôl i'r maes ieuencid ar ddiwedd y nos."

Bydd Maes B ar y maes ieuencid yn cychwyn nos Fercher gyda Meic Stevens, Elin Fflur, Al Lewis Band, Tom ap Dan a Greta Isaac, ac yna nos lau, bydd Cowbois Rhos Botwnnog, Y Niwl, Sen Segur, Violas ac Eilir Pierce yn ymddangos.

Y Bandana, Masters in France, Swnami, Helyntion Jos y Ficar a Nebula, enillwyr Brwydr y Bandiau C2 Radio Cymru a Mentrau Iaith Cymru, sy'n

chwarae nos Wener, ac Yr Ods, Creision Hud, Yr Angen, Candelas ac enillwyr cystadleuaeth Brwydr y Bandiau Maes B fydd yn cloi'r wythnos ym Maes B.

"Rwy'n meddwl ein bod ni wedi llwyddo i sicrhau lein-yp ardderchog ar gyfer Maes B eleni, gydag amrywiaeth eang o grwpiau a genres, a fydd yn sicrhau apelio at gynulleidfa leol a chenedlaethol sy'n dod draw i Fro Morgannwg."

"Bydd gigs Maes B, gan gynnwys cystadleuaeth Brwydr y Bandiau, ddechrau'r wythnos yn cael eu cynnal ar y llwyfan perfformio ar Faes yr Eisteddfod ei hun."

"Mae hyn yn rhan o strategaeth yr Eisteddfod i ganoli nifer o weithgareddau, gan gynnwys Maes C ar y Maes ei hun eleni, ac mae'n ffordd arbennig o sicrhau bod cympas llawer mwy eang o bobl yn cael cyfle i fwynhau rhai o fandiau newydd Cymru ddechrau'r wythnos."

"O ran cystadleuaeth Brwydr y Bandiau, rwy'n meddwl bod cael y cyfle i chwarae ar y llwyfan perfformio yn ogystal ag ym Maes B ei hun yn gyfle arbennig i unrhyw fand."

Gellir prynu tocynnau arlein yn: www.eisteddfod.org.uk, neu drwy ffônio'r Llinell Docynnau - 0845 4090 800. Am ragor o wybodaeth am Maes B, ewch i www.maesb.com neu www.facebook.com/maesb. Gallwch ddilyn Maes B ar Twitter - www.twitter.com/maesb.

YR ODS lead the Saturday night line-up at this



Yr Ods lead the Saturday line-up.

year's Maes B, completing four evenings of gigs, which will be very different to previous years at the National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan.

According to organiser, Guto Brychan:

"This year's Maes B will be held on an open stage in the youth village, adding to the festival vibe and creating a great atmosphere."

"The response to this

idea has been extremely positive, especially on social media such as Twitter, since the original idea was first announced late last year."

"We've wanted to experiment with an open stage for a while, and this year's location is perfect; so from Wednesday evening onwards, Maes B takes place in the youth village, close to the Eisteddfod Maes itself."

"This means that people won't have to worry about catching a

bus or getting back to the campsite at the end of the night."

Maes B at the youth village starts on Wednesday night with Meic Stevens, Elin Fflur, Al Lewis Band, Tom ap Dan and Greta Isaac, and on Thursday night, Cowbois Rhos Botwnnog, Y Niwl, Sen Segur, Violas and Eilir Pierce will perform.

Y Bandana, Masters in France, Swnami, Helyntion Jos y Ficar and Nebula, winners of the C2 Radio Cymru and Mentrau Iaith

Cymru Battle of the Bands, are the line-up on Friday, with Yr Ods, Creision Hud, Yr Angen, Candelas and winners of the Maes B Battle of the Bands competition performing on Saturday night at Maes B.

Guto Brychan added: "I think we've managed to put together a strong line-up this year, with a wide range of groups and genres coming together, to create a festival which is sure to appeal to a local and national audience, coming to the Vale of Glamorgan."

"Maes B gigs at the beginning of the week, including the Battle of the Bands competition, will be held on the performance stage on the Eisteddfod Maes itself."

"This is part of the Eisteddfod's strategy to centralise a number of

activities, including Maes C, on the Maes itself this year, and it's a great way to ensure that as many people as possible have the chance to enjoy some of Wales' newest bands early in the week."

"I think it's good for the Battle of the Bands competition, as the bands will be able to perform live on the performance stage as well as playing in Maes B - a fantastic opportunity for any band."

Tickets are available online at: www.eisteddfod.org.uk, or by ringing the ticket-line - 0845 4090 800. For more information on Maes B, go to: www.maesb.com or www.facebook.com/maesb. You can also follow Maes B on Twitter - www.twitter.com/maesb.



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ARRIVAL OF WELSH NATIONAL FESTIVAL IS A TIMELY ECONOMIC BOOST TO TRADERS IN THE VALE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20)

Janet continued: "We are all really looking forward to welcoming visitors, and we hope that they will enjoy spending time in the town, and come back soon!"

"Llantwit Major RFC is hosting the Welsh Language Society's camp site, and there will also be live music, featuring the best Welsh lan-

guage bands, every evening in the rugby club."

The Llantwit Major History Society is also doing its bit to welcome visitors to the town. Members will be on hand throughout the Eisteddfod period, offering information and advice about the history of the area.

They will be in the Heritage Centre, which is part of the town hall, from August 4 until August 11.

The potential economic benefits of around 160,000 visitors to the Vale have been appreciated by the Vale Council, too.

The council's website offers visitors advice on where to stay, and where to visit, and the council will have a strong presence on the Maes throughout the festival.

An Eisteddfod spokeswoman told The GEM: "A significant percentage of the economic benefit to the local area during the Eisteddfod goes to the tourism and hospitality sector, with people staying in hotels and guest houses, eating out, and enjoying local amenities during their visit to the area."

"Around 600 caravans and 100 tents will be placed on the official caravan site next to the Eisteddfod Maes itself, and many more people will be looking for spaces at other local caravan parks during the week."

"Thousands more will also be searching for hotels, bed and breakfasts, guest houses, private houses and so on, providing ample opportunities for the hospitality sector in the region, as many people will book their accommodation well in advance."

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EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORGANNWÇ VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

Crash course in Welsh for local businesses

BUSINESSES in the Vale are invited to attend a free Welsh taster session during the next week, as part of preparations to welcome Eisteddfod visitors to the county.

The aim of the session is to help staff learn basic phrases to greet visitors in Welsh, and the first session is tonight (Thursday, July 26) 5.30pm-6.30pm at the Bear Hotel, in Cowbridge.

The second session will be on Tuesday, July 31 (4.30pm-5.30pm) at

the Llantwit Major Rugby Club.

For more details, email gwen-not@eisteddfod.org.uk or call 0845 4090 300.

An Eisteddfod spokeswoman added: "If you're attending the Eisteddfod and interested in learning Welsh, remember to drop in at Maes D, the learners' pavilion."

"Taster sessions for complete beginners will be held daily at Maes D, and everyone is welcome. Look under 'Maes activities' on the Eisteddfod's website for the time of each session."

Vale Council puts fun into the Eisteddfod

THE stage is set and final preparations are well under way for the National Eisteddfod 2012.

For this year's Eisteddfod, which will be held in Llandow from August 4-11, the Vale Council has organised a daily programme of fun activities for visitors of all ages.

Activities include a surf simulator challenge, willow weaving and puppet workshops, paintball target challenge, play activities, balloon modelling, face painting and Nordic walking.

Cookery tutorials, showing visitors how to make traditional Welsh treats such as Glamorgan sausages, laverbread and Welsh cakes, will also be held by BBC Wales presenter Sian Bassett Roberts.

Daily film and music workshops will be held by the Vale Youth Team on the multi-media VPod bus.

The Vale's sports and play development team will be overseeing activities in the sports arena, including taster sessions

in rugby, football, cricket, badminton, tri-golf, athletics, multisport games and dodgeball.

Many of these sessions will be delivered by experienced coaches from the team's 5x60, Disability Sport and Dragon Sport programmes.

There will also be coaches from a variety of organisations delivering coaching sessions daily throughout the week, with players from Cardiff Blues and Glamorgan Cricket will also host

training sessions.

The Vale's Play Aloud team will be inviting visitors to help them build a cardboard city.

A mobile forest school will also be on site, with activities - including building a log circle, scavenger hunts and treasure hunts.

As part of a revival of the Barry Summer School, artist Ivor Davies will give a presentation about the pioneering summer school during the 1960s at 3pm on Thursday, August 9.

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*EISTEDDFOD GENEDLAETHOL BRO MORGANNWG
VALE OF GLAMORGAN NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD*

Community fundraisers are vital part of the Eisteddfod

THROUGHOUT the area, fundraising groups have been organising events to raise money to help with the cost of bringing the Eisteddfod to the Vale.

Sian Elin Jones, of the Welsh St Donat's group, told The GEM that local businesses had offered great support.

She said: "That definitely helped us to reach our target. We started a year ago last March, with a rugby forum in the Bear Hotel, with Jonathan Davies and Simon Easterby."

That event was a great success and it meant that the fundraising drive was off to a flying start.

Earlier this year, the group organised a Sant Dwywnwen evening at Cowbridge restaurant Arboreal. Sant Dwywnwen is the Welsh equivalent to St Valentine, although his saint's day is celebrated on January 25.

The group finished off their events at the end of June, with an antiques quiz, once more in the Bear, with questions from Philip Havard of Havard and Havard.

Sian Elin Jones said: "This event was organised with the Cowbridge fundraising group."

Elsewhere, there has been a huge variety of events, all aimed at helping the Eisteddfod thrive.

Cast members of *Pobol y Cwm* staged a concert in 'All Saints' Church Hall, Penarth, while the Vale Resort staged the 'Llandow Open' golf day.

Eisteddfod supporters were busy in Penarth, putting on a concert with Cantemus in St Augustine's Church; while Hamptons restaurant staged 'What's New Pussycat?' – a Tom Jones evening, complete with a five-course meal.

On a completely different tack, cast members of the cult film *Twin Town* attended a screening in the Paget Rooms, and then took part in a Q & A session.

In Barry, a cabaret at the Memorial Hall was hosted by Connie Fisher, with guests Johnny Tudor and Melanie Walters (Stacey's mum in *Gavin and Stacey*).

There is, in fact, at least one fundraising event to go, because on August 3, Bridgend Male Choir (National Eisteddfod winners in 2004 and 2006) will perform at St. Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, at 7.30 pm.

Tickets are available from Graham Morgan on 01446 790132 or 07948 485325.

Ros Lewis, of the Llantwit Major fundraisers, ran through just some of the events (more than 40) they had organised.

She said: "Graham Morgan, landlord of the Old White Hart, ran a 'Haggis and Hearts' dinner, and Quest Hair Salon staff organised a curry night at the Jaipur Indian Restaurant."

"We held a Race Night at the Kings Cup pub in St Athan, and the St Athan members of the group organised a St David's Day Dinner at the Blue Anchor."

"We organised a murder mystery evening, in conjunction with the Welsh learner officer, at Illtuds 216 restaurant, a 'Taste of Wales' dinner at the West House Hotel, Llantwit Major, and a ghost story evening at the Boverton Castle."

The aforementioned are by no means the only ones who have worked to help the Eisteddfod, and the sheer number who gave their time is a real testament to the affection that people have for this celebration of Welsh culture and tradition.

The Eisteddfod may have to deal with a certain rival attraction in London this year, but for so many proud Welsh men and women – it's simply no contest!

LONG SERVING STAFF RETIRE AT SCHOOL

FOUR teachers with a combined service record of 126 years at Holton Primary School, retired at the end of the summer term.

They were: Mrs H O'Sullivan, Mrs S Thomas, Mrs C Evans and Mrs P Lloyd.

"They have given the school many years of loyal service and many, many children could not have asked to be placed in better caring hands than theirs," said head-teacher Mr A Gilbert.

"On behalf of everyone at the school now, and all those who have known them, I should like to thank them for their commitment to the



school and wish them a long and happy retirement," he added.

ABOVE:
The retiring colleagues with Mr Gilbert.

IN BRIEF: Plaid coffee

THE latest free coffee morning with Dinas Powys Plaid councillors will be held this Saturday, July 28 (11am-12noon) in the Lee Hall, Britway Road.

Contact Coun Chris Franks on 07725497423.

Joint worship

THE parish of Llansantffraid, Bettws and Aberkenfig will be holding a joint worship service in Llansantffraid Church on Sunday, July 29 at 10am; all welcome.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

**Development that may affect a Conservation Area /
Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth**

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00693/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: New three storey dwelling built over existing outdoor pool
Location/Lleoliad: 10, Park Road, Penarth
Listed Building/Adeilad Rhestredig: Penarth

**Affecting setting of a Listed Building/
Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig**

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00591/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Proposed re-building of hall formerly known as Frazier Hall at Boys Village for use as single residential dwelling
Location/Lleoliad: Plot 1, Former Frazier Hall, Boys Village, West Aberthaw
Listed Building/Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting The War Memorial, West Aberthaw, Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00592/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Proposed rebuilding of caretakers bungalow to form single dwelling
Location/Lleoliad: Plot 5, former caretakers bungalow site, Boys Village, West Aberthaw

Listed Building/Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting The War Memorial, West Aberthaw, Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00632/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Proposed conversion of canteen block building to form single dwelling
Location/Lleoliad: Plot 2, Former T Shaped canteen block, Boys Village, West Aberthaw

Listed Building/Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting The War Memorial, West Aberthaw, Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00633/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Proposed conversion of school chapel building to form single dwelling
Location/Lleoliad: Plot 3, Former School Chapel, Boys Village, West Aberthaw

Listed Building/Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting The War Memorial, West Aberthaw, Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00634/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Proposed conversion of accommodation block building to form single dwelling
Location/Lleoliad: Plot 4, former accommodation block flat roof brick building, Boys Village, West Aberthaw

Listed Building/Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting The War Memorial, West Aberthaw, Grade II

**May affect a Public Right of Way /
Gall effeithio ar Hawi Tramwy Cyhoeddus**

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2012/00676/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Dormer bungalow
Location/Lleoliad: Tyn Y Tranch Farm, Ystradowen, Cowbridge

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
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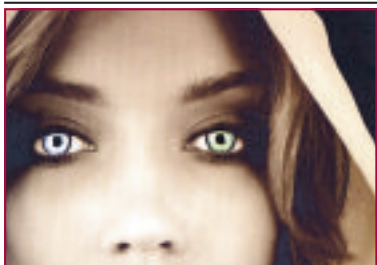
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NOLAN'S FINAL DARK KNIGHT MOVIE COMPLETES TRULY CLASSIC TRILOGY

HAVING taken on what seemed to be a poisoned chalice in the Batman franchise, Chris Nolan has not only resurrected it, but has also redefined the comic book genre on film (it's not for nothing that he is executive-producing next year's Superman film, *Man of Steel*).

Having smashed box-office records with the last Bat-outing, *The*

Dark Knight, Nolan's latest entry in the franchise is also likely to be his last.

In *The Dark Knight Rises*, we pick up the story eight years later, with Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) having 'retired' Batman, as Gotham's police, led by Commissioner Gordon (Gary Oldman), have cleaned up the streets.

But when a terrorist named Bane (Tom Hardy) and a cat-thief called Selina Kyle (Anne Hathaway) show up in the city, Wayne

must 'rise' once again and defend his city against his most formidable foe yet...

How exactly does a director go about following up a film that grossed over \$1 billion dollars worldwide and was held up as perhaps the greatest comic-book movie of all time?

For a lesser director, the challenge may have proved too much. However, Chris Nolan must have felt confident in his ability not just to follow up *The Dark Knight*, but to wrap up

his take on the franchise.

It was confidence that was not misplaced, as *The Dark Knight Rises* is a grandiose and epic film that brings the *Dark Knight* trilogy to a satisfying conclusion, the film aiming higher than its predecessor and, by and large, hitting those targets.

The law of sequels is that they must be bigger, more dramatic, and have more spectacle than what came before, and given that *The Dark Knight* superseded these rules, quite what Nolan and company would do this time around would be closely watched.

However, there is no getting away from the raising of the dramatic stakes as characters are put through the wringer, in terms of the scope of the direction, which is sweeping, and the set-pieces, which push the bar even higher.

Nolan's direction has grown more accom-

plished since his first Batman outing, and here he indulges himself fully. Certainly the near-three-hour run-time doesn't come close to dragging; there is so much story to tell that the film moves along nicely.

But Nolan is as keen to concentrate on the drama as he is the action, resulting in a film that bridges the gap between the two elements, and more than delivering on both.

Writing along with his brother Jonathan, the pair delve deeper into the universe they've created, giving nearly all of the main characters their moment in the sun, while taking pains to ensure the story wraps up cleanly.

Come the conclusion, all the protagonists feel fully realised and well drawn out (even if some, such as Marion Cotillard's Miranda Tate feel slightly under done).

Christian Bale delivers an incredible performance as the man with two identities, capturing the pain and guilt that the years have brought upon him, wrestling with his desire to save the city he loves.

Bale's is the driving role through the film and the actor, as ever supported more than dependably by the similarly-impressive Michael Caine as Alfred, is more than up to the task.

Considering he spends the entire film behind a mask, Tom Hardy is impressive as Bane, the actor using his eyes and dominating physical presence to great effect, the physicality emphasising how big a threat he is to both Batman and Gotham.

Anne Hathaway blows away the preconceptions that she wasn't up to the role of Selina Kyle with a breathtaking turn that burns through the film.

Both Joseph Gordon Levitt and Gary Oldman are similarly as impressive, the pair incredible, with the whole cast delivering exquisite performances.

While sad that this is the finale of Nolan's Batman, his rescue of the character on the big screen, and subsequent revival, has resulted in nothing short of one of the finest cinematic trilogies of all time. *The Dark Knight Rises* is a worthy, and hugely satisfying, closing chapter.

VERDICT - Saying goodbye to Batman with an epic and emo-



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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tional outing, *The Dark Knight Rises* is top-class film making by Christopher Nolan.

With an outstanding cast, and beautiful balance between drama and action, it is a fitting finale to a truly outstanding trilogy - good luck to whoever has to follow this! Essential viewing. **SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *The Dark Knight* (2008), *Inception* (2010)



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COWBRIDGE

Brook Cottage, Llanfarnham - £485,000
Charming, detached character cottage set in beautiful position overlooking the brook which passes through the well regarded village of Llanfarnham. Well presented accommodation briefly comprises entrance vestibule, open plan living/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, study, sitting room, rear hall/utility room and cloakroom. First floor: a landing area provides wonderful space, 3 double bedrooms one of which has an ensuite and a family bathroom. Landscaped gardens surround the property. Off road parking and a detached double garage.



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LLANBLETHIAN

Chestnut Villa, Llantwit Major - £309,950
A characterful family home in a conservation area within the historic 'West End' of Llantwit Major and with a wonderful, sheltered west facing mature garden. Large lounge with woodburner, dining room and fitted kitchen. Also utility room and ground floor cloakroom. Two bedrooms and bathroom to first floor; also third, double bedroom to attic accessed from bathroom. West facing garden with patio and lawn with 'Discovery' apple tree and surrounded by flower and shrub borders. Stone-built, garden store.



SSTC
LLANTWIT MAJOR

Primrose View, Llanblethian - £575,000
A brand new detached property in the heart of the well regarded village of Llanblethian, a short walk from Cowbridge town centre. Bright and spacious accommodation finished to a high quality comprises of reception hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room and downstairs shower room. 4 bedrooms 2 with en-suites, and a family bathroom. Integral garage. Enclosed gardens.



SOLD
WICK

8 The Limes, Cowbridge - £249,950
A brand new detached property in the heart of the well regarded village of Llanblethian, a short walk from Cowbridge town centre. Bright and spacious accommodation finished to a high quality comprises of reception hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room and downstairs shower room. 4 bedrooms 2 with en-suites, and a family bathroom. Integral garage. Enclosed gardens.



Nash House, Nash, Cowbridge - £645,000
Nash House stands in almost one third of an acre of the landscaped gardens of Nash Manor. A beautiful, period property combining features of both historical and architectural interest. Well proportioned accommodation and outbuildings within a stone throw of the market town of Cowbridge.



Rose Cottage, Llandow - £299,950
A picturesque, 4 bedroom character cottage set in the heart of this well regarded village. The accommodation briefly comprises of entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room. To the first floor, 4 bedrooms and family shower room. Outside, a private, enclosed rear garden. Off street parking. Cowbridge school catchment. No onward chain.



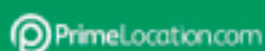
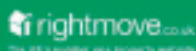
2 Kingscombe Cottage, Llanblethian - £299,950
A period, semi detached cottage situated in a wonderful position, in the centre of Llanblethian. The accommodation briefly comprises of porch, living room, kitchen with pantry, rear hall, bathroom and three bedrooms. Outside store. Large plot with off road parking. Requires some modernisation.



Ty Amandla, Marcross - £240,000
Situated in the quiet village of Marcross, an architect-designed refurbishment of a delightful 19th century two-bedroom property. The accommodation briefly comprises: entrance hallway, w.c., kitchen/breakfast room, utility room and living room. Upstairs: two double bedrooms and family bathroom. Outside, there is a private lawned garden and driveway parking for two cars.

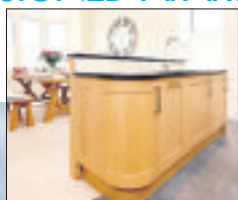
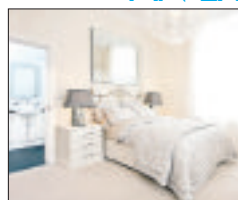


57 Eastgate, Cowbridge - £245,000
A two bedroom cottage situated in the heart of Cowbridge. Accommodation briefly comprises entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, landing, two double bedrooms and a bathroom. Enclosed back garden.



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News in and out of class at St Richard Gwyn



Does anyone remember staff in the picture?
If you recognise the staff in the picture (above), come along to St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School in Barry for its Jubilee celebrations on October 20.

All are welcome to see how the school has changed since St Cadocs opened with just 166 pupils and 12 staff. **HYWEL OWEN**, the deputy head at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, the only faith secondary school in the Vale of Glamorgan, will be retiring at the end of this year.

He has taught a staggering 38 years at the school and looks forward to meeting as many former pupils as possible at St Richard Gwyn's Jubilee celebra-

tion.

Mr Owen said he knew it was time to hang up his board rubber when a pupil arrived at the school and said: "You taught my grandmother, Sir!"

All are welcome at the school for Mass and a fun-filled afternoon with past staff and pupils on October 20.

They will also be grateful for information or pictures about those who were at St Richard Gwyn in the early years (1987-92) when Mr Owen was Head of English and sported a very dashing beard!

We need your help!
THE photograph (right) shows the staff of St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, the only faith secondary school in the Vale of Glamorgan, in approximately 1975.

We know everyone except the lady bottom



Hywel Owen: He knew it was time to retire when a pupil said: "You taught my grandmother, sir!"

left...we would love to identify her so that the picture can take its place in our Wall of Fame at the Jubilee celebrations.

Next year, the Catholic Church is celebrating a Year of Faith and to launch it, the school is holding a Jubilee Mass and Reunion at the school on October 20.

All are welcome at the school for Mass and a fun-filled afternoon with past staff and pupils.

Past pupils and staff are asked to email the school on info@strichardgwyn.co.uk for an invitation to the Mass.



KiddieWinkles celebrate their 4th birthday with a big party!

THE children of KiddieWinkles Playgroup
@Crossway recently celebrated four successful years at Crossway Methodist Church at their end of term party.

We celebrated by holding a teddy bear's picnic and a pyjama party with all our friends and our favourite teddy bears.

The children had lots of fun, bringing their furry friends to playgroup on Wednesday July 11 and sharing their teddies with their friends, listening to stories about teddy bears and singing songs and rhymes too.

At the end of the session, we also held a mini disco which all the children and their teddies took part in.

The children all went home with a little goodie bag and balloon.

We also have lots more reasons to cele-

brate with the recent confirmation that KiddieWinkles Playgroup will be expanding and creating another playgroup in the West End of Barry at Bethel Baptist Church.

On Tuesday September 11 between 9:15am and 11:15am we will be holding an open morning at Bethel Baptist Church for anyone who would like to come along to find out further details.

Everyone at KiddieWinkles is very excited at the prospect of another playgroup and anyone interested in placing their child at either setting (Crossway or Bethel) can contact us on 07855 369601, or email: kiddiewinkles@tiscali.co.uk. You can also find further information at: www.kiddiewinkleschildcare.com.

We will be holding a 'grown-ups' party tomorrow (Friday, July 27) at Market St Club, Barry to help raise much-needed funds to



ABOVE: Youngsters enjoyed the food and fun on offer at the KiddieWinkles' joint birthday and end-of-year party.

furnish and equip the new playgroup, which will be opening on Monday September 17.

We would like to extend invitations to all of our parents, friends and supporters who are more than welcome to join us on the party night.

Tickets are £5 per person and will cover the cost of the room, DJ and buffet.

We have had marvellous support from local businesses in Barry, with some fabulous raffle prize donations!

Many thanks to Bodywise of Holton Road, The Nibblers of Holton Road, The Little

Blue Deli of Thompson Street, Tesco Barry, Sian Lewis Photography of High Street, Tesco Culverhouse Cross, JustB, McDonalds Barry, Salon Caprice of Main Street and The Duke of Wellington in Cowbridge to name just a few!

If you cannot make it on the night, why not try your luck with our fabulous raffle.

Tickets are £2 per strip of five tickets and can be purchased through the playgroup.

We would be delighted for anyone who has used our services in the past, present and even in the future to join us

and help us celebrate four very successful years and the opening of our new playgroup.

Jayne Eldridge, proprietor of KiddieWinkles Childcare would like to wish Karen Jones and Alison Williams all the love, luck and happiness in the world as they prepare to take on their new roles as playgroup leaders in September.

They have both worked closely with her in previous years and are sure to carry on the good work that the group provides within the community.
JE

Successful away trip for young competitors

THE Cadroxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do travelled to High Wycombe for the G.T.I. National Open Championships.

Young Joel Wells did well to come away with third place in the junior boys point sparring, while Cody Jacobsen was unfortunate in the boys pee wee class, just missing out on third.

In one of the largest categories of the day, Cian Allen did exceptionally well to take second while, not to be outdone, Evan Baron also took second place in his category.

Competing for the time in continuous sparring category, Cameron Williams fought his way through to the final, which went on to extra time twice, and was decided by one point.

He came away with second place, not to be disappointed he went on the take first place in the junior point sparring category.

Bradley Halford and Matthew Bennett were



Morganne Gomez, Keita Enfield, Jamie Halford, Dominic Todd, Matthew Bennett, Morgan Harry, Lucy Newman, Shannon Haysham, Cameron Williams, Thomas Haysham, Bradley Halford, Cian Allen, Evan Baron and Ollie Tipples

unlucky to be in the same black belt point and continuous sparring categories where Bradley took second and Matthew took third in the continuous sparring.

In the point categories, Matthew took second and Bradley took third place.

Stars of the day were Thomas Haysham, Lucy Newman and Keita Enfield all three taking first places in both the point and continuous sparring categories.

Special awards went to Lucy Newman and Keita Enfield, who finished at the top of their respective divisions of the black belt ranking table for 2011-2012. Therefore, they both won the GTI Competitor of the Year award.

Just missing out on a podium place this time were Morgan Harry and young Cody Jacobsen.

For further information phone: Barry (01446) 406372 **RT**

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CAMBRIDGE STREET, BARRY
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£94,950



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CAMBRIDGE STREET, BARRY
 Renovated to high standard, sea views from front elevation, 3 bedroom, bay fronted, semi detached, living room with block flooring, dining room opening to sun lounge, fitted kitchen, replacement bathroom, no chain.
£189,950



YEW TREE COURT, BARRY
 Third floor apartment, 2 bedrooms, balcony overlooking Romilly Park, fitted kitchen, spacious living room, designated parking.
£117,950



TRINITY STREET, BARRY
 End of terrace, updated over recent months, forecourted area, newly fitted kitchen, first floor bathroom, 2 bedrooms, GCH via combi, UPVC DG.
£114,950



COG ROAD, SULLY
 Spacious family living, detached dwelling, sitting room, oak wood panelling, dining room & living room, shower room, kitchen/breakfast, 4 bedrooms, double garage - backing onto farmland.
£524,950



MAES Y GWENEN, RHOOSE
 4 double bedrooms, master with ensuite & dressing room, living, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen, breakfast room, utility, well presented throughout, enclosed laid to lawn garden, integral garage, cul de sac position.
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ST OSYTH COURT, BARRY
 Apartment block with lift, 2 bedroom, far reaching sea views, balcony, replacement bathroom, replacement boiler via combi, modern fitted kitchen, UPVC D glazed throughout, extended lease 999 yrs, no chain..
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HEOL Y GAER, THE KNAPP, BARRY
 Dorna bungalow, show home presented, sea views from 1st floor, gr floor: 2 bedrooms, living room, dining room, 2011 fitted kitchen, family bathroom. To the 1st floor: master bedroom & bathroom, detached garage/driveway.
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GLYNBRIDGE, BARRY
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GRIFFIN CLOSE, BARRY
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Offers in excess of £204,950



DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY
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WESTWARD RISE, BARRY
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£289,950



PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
 Traditional semi detached bungalow, bay fronted, 3 bedrooms, reception room, sun lounge, level enclosed rear garden, driveway to front.
£197,950



CLAUDE ROAD, BARRY
 End of link modern, 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen/diner, driveway/garage, enclosed rear garden, no chain.
£127,500



THE LIMPET, GILESTONE
 Detached dwelling, versatile living, currently used as bed & breakfast, converted 16th century boat house, ideal for dual accommodation, situated on beachfront, separate accommodation over double garage.
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£82,950



MARINE DRIVE, BARRY
 Detached dwelling, stunning sea & beach views, much sought after location, 3 double bedrooms, living room, dining room, spacious fitted kitchen, utility room, driveway/garage, no chain.
£329,950



PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
 Stunning views over Vale, dorna detached bungalow, to the ground floor: living, dining room, bathroom & bedroom. To the 1st floor: 2 bedrooms, ensuite & dressing room, garage/parking
£329,950



REGENT STREET, BARRY
 Well presented, 4 bedrooms, 3 receptions, downstairs w.c, first floor family bathroom, UPVC DG-GCH, low maintenance garden, no chain.
£134,950



REGENT STREET, BARRY
 Well presented, 3 bedrooms, through living room, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom, wc cloak to 1st floor, UPVC DG-GC heating.
£122,950



EVANS STREET, BARRY
 Traditional mid terraced, well presented, through living/dining room, ground floor bathroom, 3 double bedrooms, level enclosed garden, ideal first time buy, viewing highly recommended
£114,950



GLAN HAFREN, THE KNAPP, BARRY
 4 bedroom, modern detached, balcony overlooking sea, living/dining room, garage/parking, no chain.
£112,950



GLAN HAFREN, BARRY
 2 double bedrooms, panoramic sea views, garage/ample parking, view from every room, beach front ground floor apartment.
£179,950



GLEBE HOUSE, BARRY
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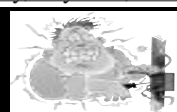
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Thank You

Deb's 60th

Thank you so much to my wonderful family and good friends for my beautiful cards and presents, especially Gus, Rhys, Lisa, Judy, Lai, Alun, 'Bertie the Bhaji' and Freeway who worked so hard to make sure my party was a success.

I HAD A BALL!

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on the birth of your daughter
Evie Louise
7lb on 24 July 2012.
All our love, Mum, Dad,
Aaron, Kirsty & Ava

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Family Notices

Mrs Pat Maynard

would like to thank all her friends for the kind messages of sympathy that she and her family have received after the tragic loss of Tom. They are much appreciated.

Motors For Sale

2009 58 Plate Mercedes Benz
A Class A150 Avantgarde
26,000 miles, 5-Dr, alloys, black, chrome trim, half leather interior, sensor park, MOT Jan 2013, Tax Oct 2013. FSH, A/C, low insurance group
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07508 729811

2003 Peugeot 206
Black, 5-dr, air con, rear spoiler, e/windows, long MOT, tax to Feb 2013, great condition, 1 owner from new.
£1,500 ono
01446 404754
07508 799953

04 Plate Vauxhall Corsa
3-Dr Hatchback
Met Silver, MOT May 2013, Tax Nov 2012, CD player, alloy wheels, excellent condition.
£1,500 ono
01446 773307

1999 Ford Focus
1.8 Ghia
82,000 miles, dark red, 4 door, FSH, radio. Good condition.
£900 ono
07795 098064

X Reg Ford Fiesta
Zetec 1250cc
Metallic green, 50,000 miles, new MOT.
£800
01446 413971
07792 639909

EDWARDS

Michael John

Passed away peacefully at home on July 20 after a long illness, beloved husband of Joyce and much loved father, grandpa, brother and friend.



Funeral service to be held at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Monday, July 30 at 2.45pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium Bridgend.

Family flowers only, but donations in lieu would be much appreciated for Marie Curie and Velindre Hospital - donations may be sent to Velindre Hospital, Velindre Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff; enquiries telephone 01446 775681.

EVANS

John Dewi

(David)

Daphne, Paul, Chris, Sian and family wish to thank friends and neighbours for all their kindness, lovely flowers and cards following our sad loss. Very special thanks to the doctors and nurses at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend for their wonderful care and compassion for David. Grateful thanks to Reverend David Juliff and W James & Sons, Fommon for their kindness and the beautiful service. Our thanks to you all.

NICHOLAS

Ivor Glyn

(4th April 1950 - 15th July 2012)

Peacefully on July 15, 2012 at Morriston Hospital, Swansea, aged 62 years, Ivor (master butcher of both Cardiff and Cowbridge), dearly beloved husband of Edwina, adored father of Jayne and James, and cherished grandad of Jadon. Ivor was loved and respected by so many and will be deeply missed. Resting at Thomas Brothers Funeral Home, Cowbridge until funeral on Monday July 30. Service to be held at Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon.

Flowers may be sent to Thomas Brothers Funeral Home, or donations to be made to Coronary Care Unit at Morriston Hospital, Swansea, West Glamorgan SA6 6NL.

THOMAS Linda Joyce

It is with great sadness the family announce the passing of their beloved sister Linda, loving daughter of the late Mansel and Sybil Thomas of Llanblethian. She will be missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium, Friday, July 27 at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu may be sent to Marie Curie, Velindre Hospital, Velindre Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

CODY

June (RIP)

Suddenly on July 17, 2012 at her home in Llantwit Major, the beloved daughter of the late William Francis and Gwenllian Cody, a dear sister to her brothers and sisters. Greatly missed by all who knew her.

Requiem Mass to be held at Our Lady & St Iltyd Roman Catholic Church, Ham Lane, Llantwit Major on Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at 1.15pm. Afterwards to Cathays Cemetery (Fair Oaks Road Entrance).

Donations if wished to S.V.P. c/o the church. All enquiries to W A Brown & Son, Llantwit Major, telephone 01446 792489.

Birthday Memories of

Thomas K Farman

JULY 31, 1925

All my life I will miss you,
As the years come and go,
But in my heart you will live forever,
Because I loved you so.

Your dearly loved wife, Gwyneth.

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Congratulations

Peter Roche

After all your hard work on achieving
First Class Honours in Computer Forensics

We are all very proud of you.
Love, Mum, Eain, Michael,
Granny and family xxx



Congratulations to Sophie Holloway of Wick

LLB LPC achieved at the College of Law.

'A great future awaits you'

Love, Nan. XXX

Birthdays

Happy Birthday

CLEMENT

26 July 2012

Love from all your friends
in "Llantwit Major".

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£7,895 OTR*

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- Body colour rear spoiler, tailgate handle, door mirrors and handles
- Central locking
- Intelligent Protection System (IPS)
- Power heated door mirrors



FIESTA EDGE 1.25 60 PS STAGE V
£8,295 OTR*

- 'Silver Look' bezels
- 15" steel wheels - 12 spoke wheel covers (except iCONetic)
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- Anti-lock brakes (ABS) with Emergency Brake Assist (EBA)
- Intelligent Protection System (IPS)
- Power heated door mirrors



FIESTA CENTURA 1.25 62 PS STAGE V
£9,995 OTR*

- 'Silver Look' bezels
- 16" 7-spoke Alloy Wheels
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- Ambient lighting
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The family-friendly Honda has a touch of excitement

THERE are a great many off-roaders on the market and if you are looking to purchase one it is important to understand what you want.

For instance, are you looking for an estate that is also a 4x4? If so, you might consider the Subaru Forester. Or do you prefer a more robust and high up vehicle? The Mitsubishi L200 perhaps?

You might be a Land Rover or Range Rover stalwart, in which case nothing else will do although you might wish to take a look at Jeep's offerings.

You can't forget about Sports Activity Vehicles that will handle light off-roading like the BMW X5 or the Mercedes M-Class.

Have we finished? No. Because there is another type of 4x4, manufactured by Honda. Its CR-V sports utility vehicle (SUV) doesn't even have permanent

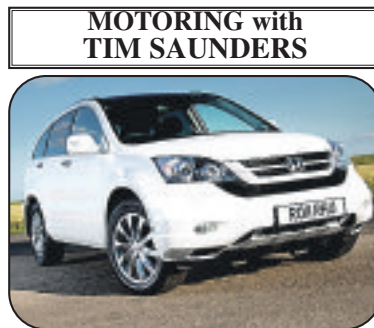
four-wheel drive. Normally it drives just the front wheels. Four wheel drive only kicks in when the system detects the front wheels slipping.

It's quite clever really because the driver doesn't need to worry about changing from two to four wheels as they would in the Mitsubishi L200, for instance and in theory this makes it more economical when commuting.

The CR-V ES-T 2-litre manual tested follows the design of traditional off-roaders being relatively high off the ground and feels as if it will take all that's thrown at it.

I used to moan about modern vehicles not having any character and manufacturers preferring plastic over chrome. In the past few weeks, I have had the pleasure of driving an Audi A1 hatchback, where there was a fair bit of the shiny metal and now the Honda CR-V, which also liberally uses the plastic (to me) material.

It really is encouraging, as I believe it does add to the overall charm. The chrome door handles shimmer in the sunlight (when it appears) and make a good con-



MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS

THE HONDA CR-V

trast to the black finish of the test vehicle.

A quirky feature is the handbrake, which is shaped more like a lever that you might expect in a racing car simulator. This is a little low to the floor, requiring me to lean to the left when engaging it.

The interior is comfortable – there is air conditioning and heated front seats. On a hot day though, the leather can be sticky and cooled seats would be advantageous.

Its six-speed manual box is precise while the engine powers the vehicle from 0 to 60mph in under 10 seconds and on to a top speed of 118mph.

Parkers, the car

experts, says: "The CR-V takes up no more road space than a family saloon (it's shorter than the Honda Accord) and its front end has been designed to cause minimum damage to pedestrians in an accident."

"This model is also less thirsty, less polluting, more practical and better to drive than its predecessor."

A family-friendly vehicle that offers a more exciting alternative to a traditional estate.

New price range: £23,030 – £33,920.
Honda CR-V Economy: 34mpg 0-60mph: 9.9secs
Top speed: 118mph
Power: 147bhp
Watch the video at: www.testdrives.biz.

Golfer Gary savours victory at Maesteg

THE Blacksmiths Golf Society chose the picturesque Maesteg golf club for their annual prestigious competition, 'The Blacksmiths Closed'.

Three times winner John Campbell, who comes alive when the famous old toilet seat trophy is mentioned, set the early pace, but couldn't keep it up, although he did take home the nearest the pin award.

Evergreen Bill Aspinall took longest drive and also third place in the stableford competition.

Wick's Philemon Williams was given his 'bandit of the year' trophy and promptly lit up the course to finish runner-up to popular winner Gary Nealon, who was being rewarded for his consistency.

He now receives a two shot handicap cut (three if new hips arrive before the next fixture!) CG



Gary Nealon (right) receives the old loo seat trophy from 2011 champion Steve Jenkins.



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GEM sport

Centurions bounce back

SULLY Centurions' 1st XI stormed back to the top of the Premier League with this resounding victory over Port Talbot at Burnham Avenue.

Mike O'Shea played a big part with bat and ball, hitting a half century and grabbing 4 wickets to become Centurions' man of the match. But this was a true team effort, with Ryan Sylvester and Charlie Lowen also getting half centuries and good contributions from Lloyd Smith (34) Richard Ready (30 not out) and Dan Rowe (20) ensuring that, on the day that the sun decided to shine again, Sully took full advantage of the conditions to post a formidable total of 303 for 7.

With the visitors' bowling taking a bit of a hammering, the best figures were returned by Griffiths, who posted 3 for 52, and Phelps (2-48). In reply the Port Talbot openers had reached 41 when Griffiths became the first of three stumpings when Charlie Lowen whipped the bails off, following good bowling from O'Shea.

Thomas (who top scored with 45) also fell the same way, with the score on 82. Dan Rowe picked up one wicket, but it was clearly a day for the slow bowlers as Mike O'Shea (4 for 39) Jamie Sylvester (2 for 34) Richard Ready (2 for 16) and skipper Tom Evison,

with 1-28, ensured the victory, with Port Talbot finally finishing 189 all out in the 44th over.

Centurions 303/7 Port Talbot 189 all out.

SECONDS DEFEATED AT PORT TALBOT
The seconds travelled to Port Talbot and were pleased to see the sun shining, but were less pleased with the result that saw them well beaten.

The hosts won the toss and batted first, reaching 22 before James Haswell caught and bowled Samuel for 13. This brought Morris and Gosby together and they enjoyed themselves, adding 50 for the second wicket when Morris was caught behind by Ben Spear off the bowling of Dave Eskins for 32.

Gosby proved to be the rock of the Port Talbot innings, top scoring with 63. He was finally dismissed by Tom Edwards with the score on 153, being the first of his 2 victims, Eskins having previously dispatched Jones, who had shared a 40 run partnership with Gosby, for 14.

Khan (45 not out) and Underwood (20 not out) took the total along to 219 for 6 after the 50 overs. Eskins (2-35) and Edwards (2-23) were the pick of the bowlers.

In reply Centurions began losing wickets regularly, being 57 for 4 and then 68 for 5 before skipper Matthew Thomas and Ben Spear shared a stand of 37. When Spear was

run out for 23 Thomas and Matthew Rowe put on another 25 before Thomas went for 36 to leave the score on 130/7. One run later Rowe fell for 6 and the tail end collapsed pretty quickly to leave Sully high and dry on 134 all out in only the 39th over.

Port Talbot's bowlers had a good afternoon, with Samuel (4-47) and Jones (3-35) doing most of the damage.

Port Talbot 219/6 Sully 134 all out

The 3rd XI had a comfortable win at Panteg, eventually running out winners by 7 wickets. This victory means that they are well placed near the top of the table, breathing down the necks of the league leaders.

Panteg 125 all out Sully 126/3

Unfortunately the 4th XI had another blank Saturday as opponents, Panteg 4ths, couldn't raise a side, so all that sunshine was for nothing!

MF

Wanderers' win sneaks them up the table

THE summer so far has been one dominated by rain-clouds and water-logged pitches, but last Saturday saw the return of the sun and with it, first XI cricket at Hayes Point where Barry Wanderers faced old rivals Blaengarw in Division 1.

Although the pitch looked hard and the day was warm and sunny, home skipper Keir was not too disappointed to lose the toss and be asked to bowl first because he knew that underneath an attractive exterior, the months of wet weather would still lead to the pitch being pretty damp underneath.

It proved to be the correct analysis because the Garw opens Evans and Hardwick found the going tough early on; naturally aggressive batsmen, they could only go at 3 an over for the first 20 overs. Chatap soon got the

breakthrough when he bowled a frustrated Hardwick for 36, and his captain Huntley soon followed him for 9, bowled by Vithiliangham.

Blaengarw counter attacked but Evans and Ginnott both fell to Gareth Hughes to leave them on 137-4. Despite being on top, no more wickets fell for the Wanderers, which allowed Struthers and Hosey to guide their team to a decent score of 189-4.

The Wanderers chase began badly with Sherriff and Nandan both departing for 1 at the hands of Hardwick. Scoring runs proved difficult but once the initial storm was weathered, Sawyer and Mhadgut started smashing the ball to all parts, and after the initial early struggles the momentum began to swing the way of the home side.

However, Sawyer (39), Mhadgut (38) and Hill (23) were all guilty of throwing their wickets away when well set and suddenly the Wanderers' nerves were jangling with their side needing 65 off 17 overs.

Time wasn't a problem, it was all about whether they could keep their wickets. Keir and Coleman rallied and picked off the ones and twos where they were available and they looked comfortable before Keir was bowled by Huntley for 15.

It was getting tense but Gareth Jones secured the victory with some lovely strokes, finishing unbeaten on 22 off 18 balls. Coleman, who was the crucial anchor in the middle-order was the other not-out batsman on 23. It all meant that the Wanderers won by 6 wickets, a victory that saw them sneak into the top half of the table.

ME

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GYMNASTS BRING MEDALS BACK FROM THE USA!



EIGHT Barry YMCA gymnasts and three coaches recently arrived home tired but happy after winning 11 medals and having a fantastic experience when they competed at the San Dollar Invitational event at the World of Sport in Florida.

In the Prep Optional Senior and Level 7 events, medals were awarded to the top six gymnasts. Tia Ali gained an all-round medal placing of sixth, and added to this with a third on beam and fifth on bars.

Elice Stockford climbed onto the podium on two occasions, placing fifth on bars and floor. Chelsea Slack also claimed two medals,

placing fourth on bars and sixth on vault.

Ellie Peterson continued the medal run, placing second on beam and joint fifth on floor, with her teammate Elice. Seren Mirza Davies added to the medal tally, placing sixth on beam.

Elisha Watkins was the sole Barry representative in Prep Optional Junior event where the top three gymnasts were awarded medals. Elisha performed a number of new skills to place fourth overall.

In the higher Level 7 Junior B event, the top six gymnasts were awarded medals. Barry YMCA was represented by Alana Stokes and Nia Davies in this category who both successfully performed a number of new skills.

Alana claimed a sixth

place medal on bars, and placed eighth overall. Nia placed seventh on floor and ninth overall.

A great experience was had by both gymnasts and coaches. A huge thanks is given to everybody who helped with the fundraising for this trip.

Special thanks go to Barry Town Council, Dinas Powys Town Council and Kelleway Builders.

Barry YMCA Gymnastics Club has organised a summer programme which includes taster sessions in a variety of disciplines.

To find out more about the summer programme or find out about more opportunities available all year round at Barry YMCA, call 01446 724001.

Town tested in friendly game

BARRY Town began their build-up to the 2012/13 season recently with a spirited and competitive friendly against Welsh Premier outfit Carmarthen Town.

The west Walians broke the deadlock as Paul Fowler unleashed a low effort that beat Dan Bradley.

Carmarthen's lead would prove fleeting. Testing his counterpart on the right flank, full-back Geraint Frowen pitched a deep cross into the danger zone, only for Wilson to misjudge a flighted ball which dipped over him and into the net.

Leon Jeanne set up Fowler for his and Carmarthen's second a minute before the interval, and after the restart, the Old Gold secured a two-goal cushion, when Jeanne freed the impressive veteran Craig Hughes, who slipped by the Dragons defence and ploughed the ball past Bradley.

Showing strong fitness levels and creativity, Barry explored each inch of the synthetic surface in their attempts to turn the screw – and their efforts were very nearly

successful.

Just before the hour, the Dragons reduced the deficit as Lee Baldock picked up where he left off last campaign – firing a measured yet mighty drive from distance into the top corner past substitute shotstopper Eli Moutmi to make it 3-2.

Moutmi however would thwart Barry's numerous attempts to level, leaving Barry rueing a closing period full of possession and territory, yet lacking the all-important third goal that would have snaggd a most credible draw.

With ticket sales for the friendly against a Cardiff City XI around the 500 mark, football fans are encouraged to reserve their entry as soon as possible, as due to safety regulations, there will be no entry on the gate on the night.

Tickets are available online at www.ticket-source.co.uk/BarryTown SC with an extra allocation now behind the bar at Jenner Park on Barry Road (from 3.30-11pm weekdays, midday-11pm weekends).

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